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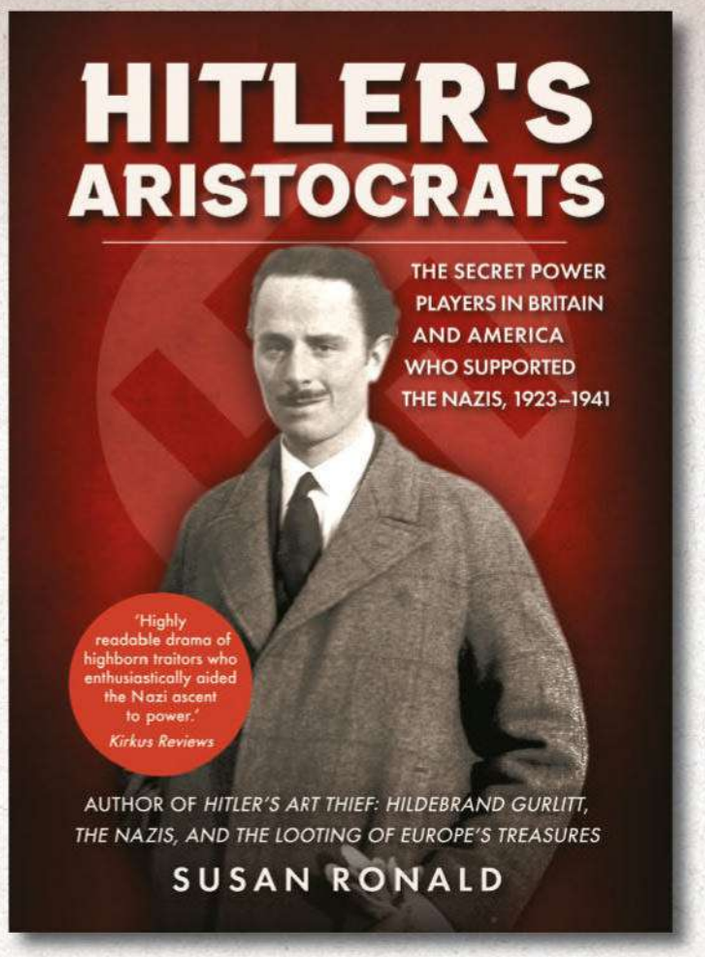
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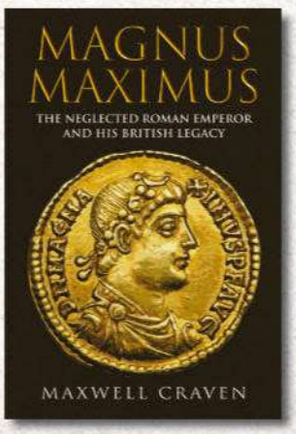

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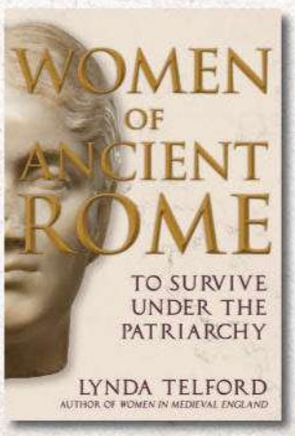

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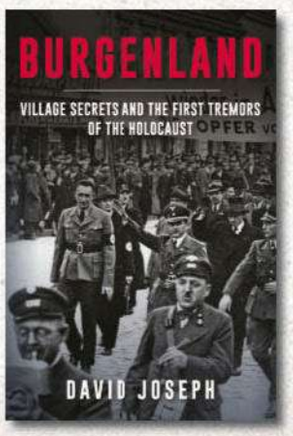

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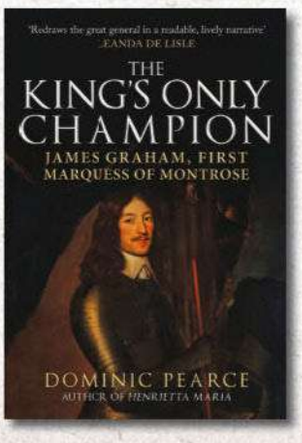

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A group of doctors and nurses photographed around 1890

Welcome

When we say the words 'Victorian medicine' what kinds of things come to mind? Small bottles and vials filled with tinctures and remedies with elaborate scrolled writing on them? A surgeon in a blood-spattered smock, wielding a gruesome hacksaw? Perhaps rows of beds with sickly patients being tended to by nurses working by candlelight? There is some truth to each of these images, but the Victorian era was a long one, encompassing more than 60 years of innovation and experimentation. The 'butchering art' of early surgery enjoyed massive advancements, drugs became more sophisticated and hygiene knowledge grew exponentially.

This is the journey we wanted to explore with Dr Agnes Arnold-Forster, who is our guide through the key developments of surgery and health in Queen Victoria's reign. From the strange medical theories they still believed in to major reforms in education, we take a look at all of the major advancements. This issue we also learn about the lives of the most rebellious thinkers of ancient Greece, discuss the incredible bravery of WWII's glider pilots, uncover the strange history of micronations and reveal the artist who fooled the Nazis with his forgeries. Quite a lot to be digging into, so I'll keep you no longer and invite you to enjoy the rest of the issue.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

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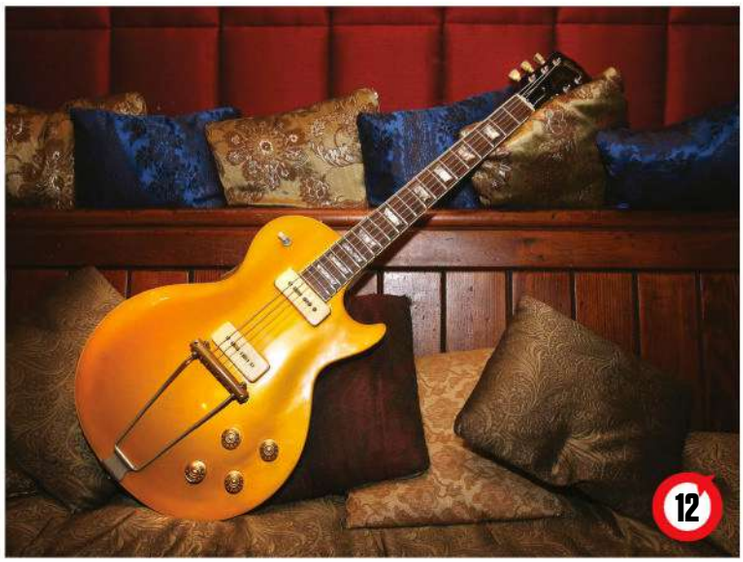

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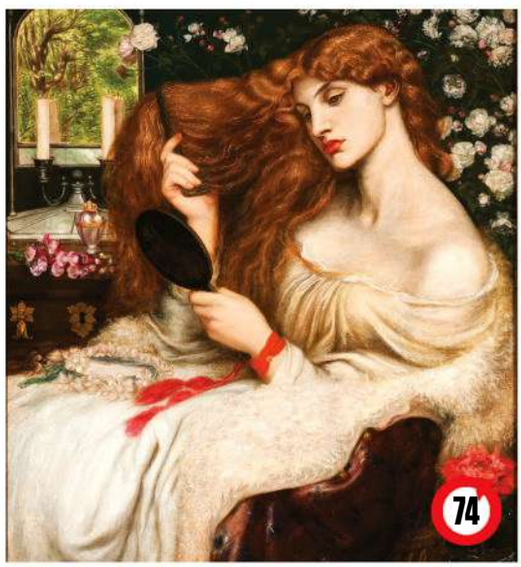

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VICTORIAN MEDICINE

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Defining Moments

11 April 1961

EICHMANN TRIAL BEGINS

In Jerusalem, Israel, Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi who'd fled to Argentina after World War II, was put on trial for, among other charges, crimes against the Jewish people and against humanity. Eichmann had been instrumental in carrying out the Nazis' 'Final Solution' and had arranged for the deportation of 1.5 million Jews from around Europe to extermination camps. The televised trial garnered international interest as the devastating events of the Holocaust were brought to the forefront of public consciousness. Eichmann was eventually found guilty and executed.

© Getty Images

6 April 1974

ABBA WINS EUROVISION

At the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton, UK, Swedish band ABBA made history by winning with their song *Waterloo*, which was the first Eurovision entry to win that was not sung in the artists' native language. Moving away from the typical ballads that were usually entered into the contest, ABBA's style became hugely popular around Europe and the band was instantly catapulted to international stardom.

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP-HOP MUSIC, HISTORY AND CULTURE

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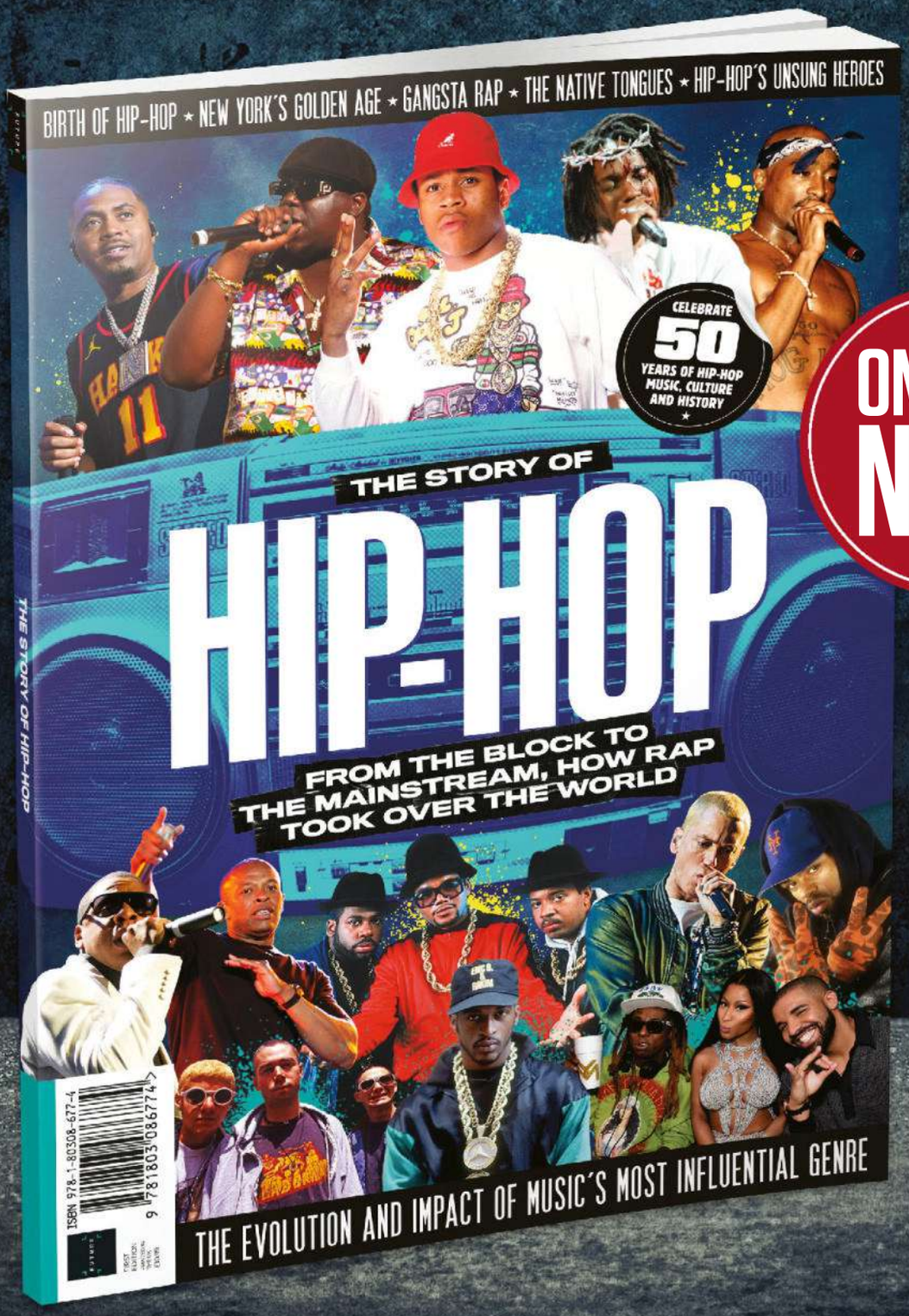
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ALL ABOUT ROCK AND ROLL

We hit the dance floor and twist out the history of one of the biggest cultural phenomena of the 20th century

INSIDE THE CAVERN CLUB

ANATOMY OF A ROCKER

EARLY ROCK AND ROLLERS

EVOLUTION OF ROCK AND ROLL

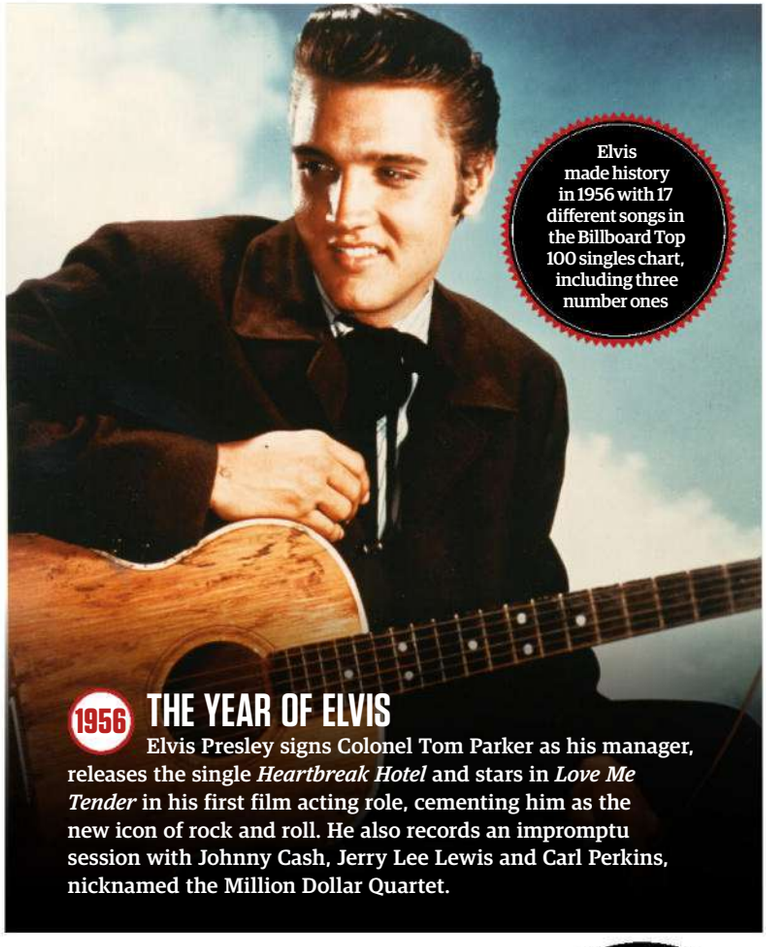
Main image: © Getty Images

Written by Jonathan Gordon, Callum McKelvie, Emily Staniforth

Key Events

1951 ROCKET 88

Recognised by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as the first rock and roll song ever recorded, Ike Turner and his band, credited as Jackie Brenston & His Delta Cats, record *Rocket 88* (after the Oldsmobile car of the same name). The track is produced by Sam Phillips (founder of Sun Studio) and sets the template for rock and roll.



Elvis made history in 1956 with 17 different songs in the Billboard Top 100 singles chart, including three number ones

1956 THE YEAR OF ELVIS

Elvis Presley signs Colonel Tom Parker as his manager, releases the single *Heartbreak Hotel* and stars in *Love Me Tender* in his first film acting role, cementing him as the new icon of rock and roll. He also records an impromptu session with Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, nicknamed the Million Dollar Quartet.

JUKEBOX EVOLUTION 1915

Chicago's Automatic Machine & Tool Co creates an automatic music jukebox for playing records; pivotal new technology for rock music to come.

SISTER ROSETTA 1938

Sister Rosetta Tharpe becomes the first gospel singer to record for Decca Records, laying down four tracks that become instant hits. She's notable for her electric guitar solos.

DOMINO EFFECT 1949

Fats Domino records his hit track *The Fat Man*, which some consider to be one of the first rock and roll records of the era.

1931 1951 1952

ROCK AND ROLL 1922

Trixie Smith records *My Man Rocks Me (With One Steady Roll)*, thought to be the first combination of those words as rhythm and blues develops.

ECHO DELAY 1945

Musician and inventor Lester William Polsfuss, better known as Les Paul, creates new recording techniques for echo delay and multi-tracking.

MOONDOG ROCK 1951

Pioneering radio disc jockey Alan Freed begins the rhythm and blues show Moondog's Rock And Roll Party, promoting Black music and starting nationwide music tours.

1931 GOING ELECTRIC

Rickenbacker Electro Instruments, founded by Adolph Rickenbacker and George D Beauchamp, create their Electro String, nicknamed the 'Frying Pan', the first electric guitar. However, as it launches during the Great Depression it struggles to sell. It inspires many imitators in the years that follow.

1952 LES PAUL GUITAR

Les Paul consults with Gibson Guitar Company to create the first solid-body electric guitar (meaning it has no air space and is made from solid wood), the Les Paul Gibson. It goes on to be used by musicians like Jimmy Page, Pete Townsend and George Harrison.

While Les Paul was consulted, the guitar was designed by Ted McCarty and Gibson factory manager John Huis

British rock and roll had struggled to emerge until the 'Beat Boom' out of Liverpool that included The Beatles and Gerry and The Pacemakers

1964 THE BRITISH INVASION

Having been influenced by American rock and roll music, The Beatles are introduced to the US with an appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. They are followed by artists such as The Who, The Rolling Stones and the Yardbirds in what becomes known as the British Invasion.

THE STRATOCASTER 1953

Having built an affordable electric guitar the previous year, Leo Fender and Doc Kauffman follow up with the famous Stratocaster, adopted by Buddy Holly, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix.

TUTTI FRUTTI 1955

Little Richard releases his breakout hit *Tutti Frutti* and in the same year Chuck Berry releases *Maybellene*, both of which push percussive lead piano forward in their sound.

JOHNNY B GOODE 1958

Thought to be the first song in popular music to celebrate the success of its singer, Chuck Berry releases *Johnny B Goode* about a guitarist who finds fame and fortune.

1954 · 1956 · 1957 · 1959 · 1961 · 1964

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK 1954

Bill Haley & His Comets release *Rock Around The Clock*, which becomes a dancehall anthem for the growing musical movement and features in the film *Blackboard Jungle*.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE 1957

Jerry Lee Lewis records and releases his hit song *Great Balls Of Fire*, a track that showcases his hyper-energetic performance style.

DYLAN GOES ELECTRIC 1965

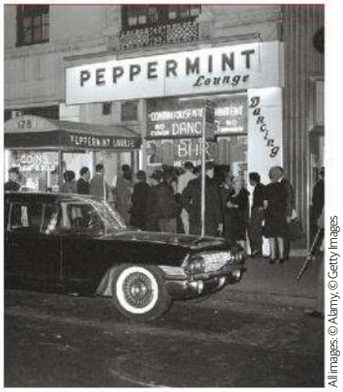
Folk artist Bob Dylan records his first electric record, *Bringing It All Back Home*, and plays an electric guitar at the Newport Folk Festival.

1959 THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

A chartered flight carrying up-and-coming rock and roll artists Buddy Holly (22), Ritchie Valens (17) and JP 'The Big Bopper' Richardson (28) crashes in Iowa having only just taken off from Mason City. All three, plus the pilot Roger Peterson, are killed, with bad weather and pilot error blamed.

1961 PEPPERMINT LOUNGE

The Peppermint Lounge club in New York becomes the launching ground for the 'Twist' dance craze that sweeps across America. With the club becoming a hotspot for rock and roll dance, it attracts celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Frank Sinatra.



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THE CAVERN CLUB

Liverpool, United Kingdom
1957–73

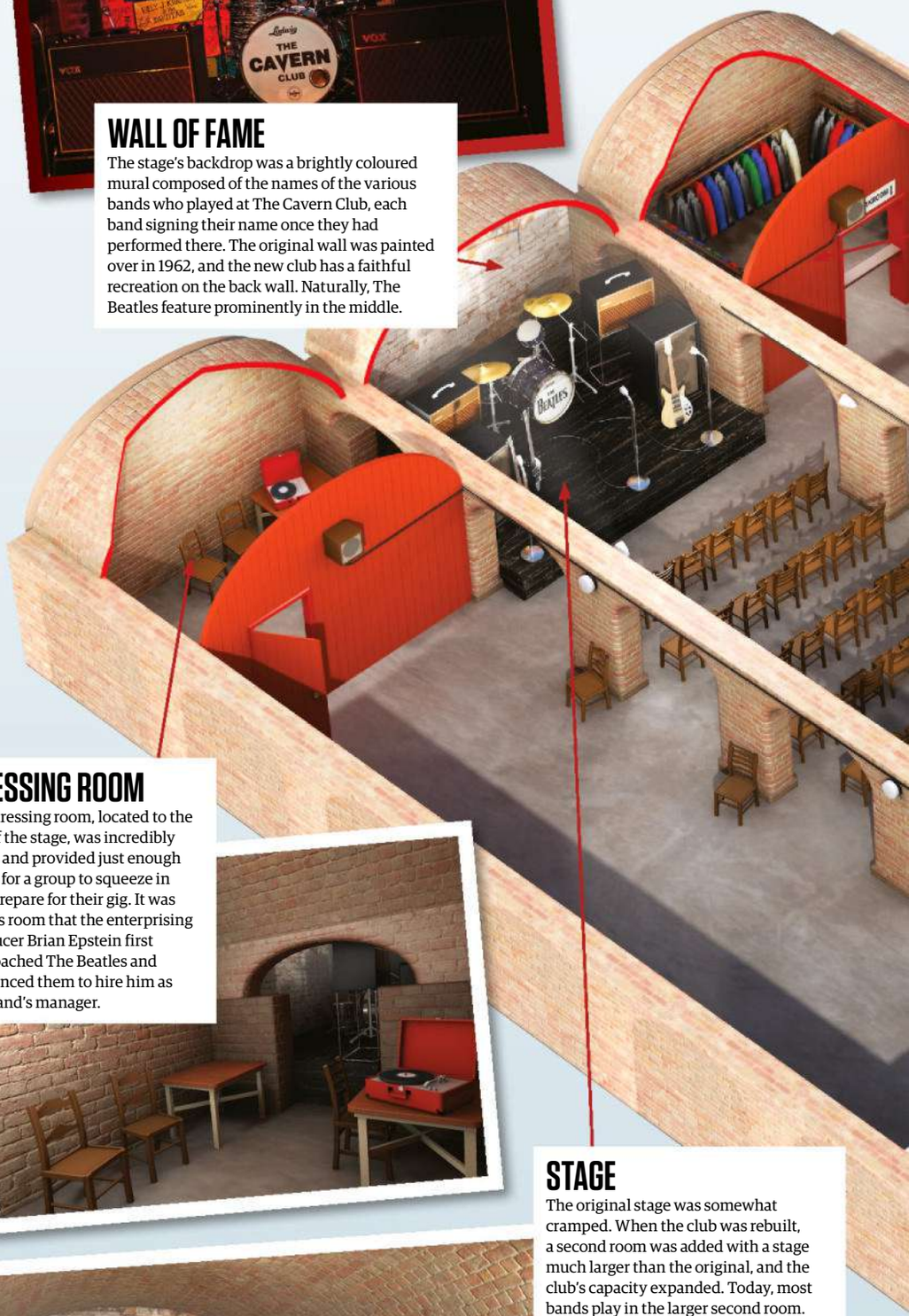
On Wednesday 15 January 1957, The Cavern Club first opened its doors to the public. Located in the basement of an unused warehouse, in years to come it would be recognised not only as the birthplace of The Beatles but also as one of the most famous music establishments in the entire world. The original intention of the club was to be a venue for modern jazz, with owner Alan Sytner specifically forbidding the playing of rock and roll. But when he sold the club in 1959, the new owner Ray McFall had a different approach. In fact, ambitious plans for the club to become "the leading jazz centre in the country outside London" were quickly abandoned when he saw the popularity of rock and roll and beat music.

The Beatles first performed at The Cavern Club in 1961 and would continue to do so for two years, their subsequent success helping make the club internationally famous. McFall was forced to close in 1966 but the club did not remain vacant for long and was quickly purchased, expanded and reopened. In 1972 British Rail bought the building and planned to demolish it to make way for the city's underground railway, and The Cavern Club was again forced to close.

In the early 1980s architect David Backhouse came up with an ingenious plan to reopen the venue. The original club was excavated and, although it was deemed too damaged, materials were removed and used in the construction of a new club. The new Cavern occupies 70 percent of the original site and includes a faithful reconstruction of the original stage and club area. The club received a grand reopening in 1984, with over 100 acts invited back to leave their signatures on the stage backdrop – a recreation of the original.

WALL OF FAME

The stage's backdrop was a brightly coloured mural composed of the names of the various bands who played at The Cavern Club, each band signing their name once they had performed there. The original wall was painted over in 1962, and the new club has a faithful recreation on the back wall. Naturally, The Beatles feature prominently in the middle.

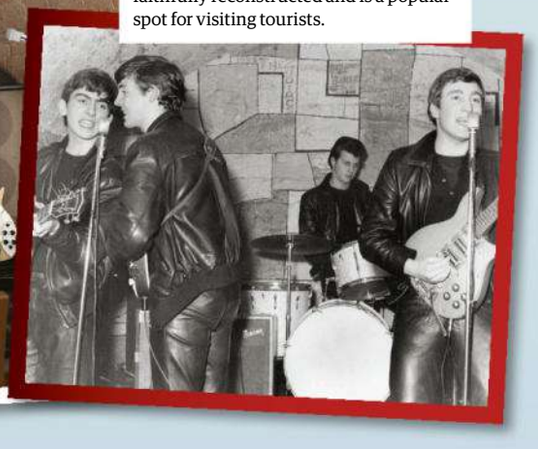


DRESSING ROOM

The dressing room, located to the left of the stage, was incredibly small and provided just enough room for a group to squeeze in and prepare for their gig. It was in this room that the enterprising producer Brian Epstein first approached The Beatles and convinced them to hire him as the band's manager.

STAGE

The original stage was somewhat cramped. When the club was rebuilt, a second room was added with a stage much larger than the original, and the club's capacity expanded. Today, most bands play in the larger second room. However, the original stage has been faithfully reconstructed and is a popular spot for visiting tourists.



CLOAK ROOM

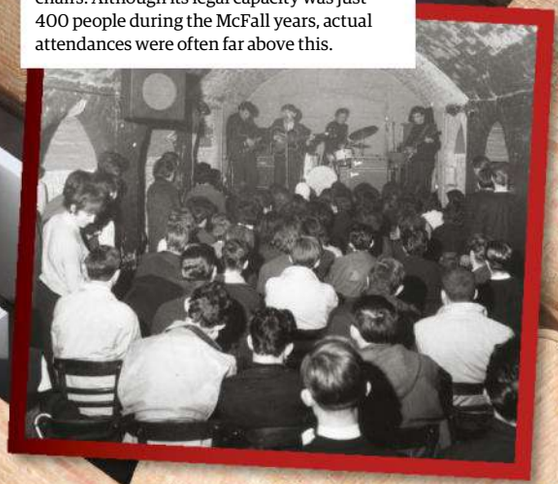
The Cavern Club had a cloakroom where attendees could leave their coats and bags. One of the cloakroom attendants was a young woman known as Priscilla White. She adopted the name Cilla Black and under the tutelage of music entrepreneur Brian Epstein became a popular singer and entertainer, later hosting TV programmes such as *Blind Date* and *Surprise Surprise*. A statue in her memory now stands close to where the original club entrance was located.

CENTRAL AREA

The Cavern Club was built in the basement of an abandoned warehouse, originally constructed in the 19th century. The original venue was damp and sparsely decorated, the bare walls painted black. In later years, during the management of Roy Adams, the club had far more striking decoration, including stone-faced gargoyles in front of wall lights.

CHAIRS

At most gigs now it has become customary to stand, however at The Cavern Club the main vault was often set out with wooden chairs. Although its legal capacity was just 400 people during the McFall years, actual attendances were often far above this.



PADDY DELANY

When Ray McFall took over the club in 1959 it was known to attract troublemakers, and he quickly hired Paddy Delany as a bouncer. Delany arrived wearing a dinner suit and cummerbund and worked as doorman for the next 15 years. When the club was rebuilt in the 1980s Delany was contacted to help as the team were unable to find workable blueprints of the original. Using Delaney's extensive knowledge they were able to reconstruct it as faithfully as possible.

SNACK BAR

The snack bar was where customers could purchase tea and coffee, and occasionally soup with a bread roll. However, during the early years The Cavern Club was unlicensed and alcohol was not sold. The Beatles were often to be found at the snack bar and could be approached by their adoring fans.

BRICKS

The ground floor and warehouse above were demolished in 1973, yet the abandoned cellar remained intact. When the club was resurrected in 1984, 15,000 bricks from the original site were used in the redevelopment. A further 5,000 bricks from the original cellar's archways were sold off for £5 each – they are highly prized by collectors.

SKIFFLE

The club's first owner Alan Sytner was strict on what music he allowed at the club and forbade any rock and roll, allowing only jazz and skiffle. The latter was a form influenced by American folk and blues music. In fact, when John Lennon's first band, The Quarrymen, played a song by Elvis Presley, they were sent a terse note ordering them to "cut out the rock and roll".

Illustration by Adrian Mann
Inset images: © Alamy, © Getty Images

Anatomy

ROCKER

Britain
1950s – 1960s

LEATHER JACKET

Black leather jackets were favoured by the British Rockers and their American biker counterparts. The rugged leather look of the Rockers was more 'manual labour' than that of their mortal enemies, the Mods, and more suited to their choice of transport. It's often said the Rockers looked down on their rivals as 'spoiled rich kids'.

HAIR

The hairstyle favoured by the Rockers was a toned-down version of the pompadour worn by rock and roll artists such as Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly. The hairstyle involved using large amounts of hair product, and in Britain it became largely associated with the Brylcreem brand.

MODS

The enemies of the Rockers were the Mods, who dressed in smart suits and whose musical tastes leaned instead towards jazz and Motown. Mods were also known to dabble in drugs whereas the Rockers usually stayed away from such substances, focussing on racing their powerful motorcycles.

ROCKERS

This youth subculture began in Britain during the late 1950s. Rockers rode sleek and fast motorcycles, usually hung out at roadside cafes, and favoured American rock and roll music from artists such as Elvis Presley and Eddie Cochran. They developed from the Teddy Boy subculture and were known for their leather jackets and distinctive hairstyles.

MODS VS ROCKERS

In May 1964 the press reported on riots between Mods and Rockers in British seaside towns, including Brighton and Bournemouth, with the Whitsun weekend of 16-18 May being the most violent. But historians have cast doubt on the severity of these disturbances, labelling it an example of a moral panic.

CAFÉ RACER

Rockers were famed for their powerful motorbikes, usually custom built. The most well-known of these was the Triton, consisting of a Triumph twin-engine and a Norton frame. These bikes became known as café racers and were designed primarily for speed and for aesthetic purposes. Their name came from the Rockers' favourite hangout spots – motorway cafes.

BOOTS

Winklepickers were a type of shoe favoured first by the Teddy Boys and then by Rockers. However, Rockers also wore other types of shoes such as full-length Levi's leather boots. Traditionally Winckle pickers had a pointed toe, though this was removed to create a 'chisel toe' found on most contemporary shoes.

Illustration by Kevin McGivern

Historical Treasures

BUDDY HOLLY'S GLASSES

The singer's distinctive spectacles disappeared shortly after his fatal crash, only to reappear 20 years later

Lubbock, Texas

On 3 February 1959 Buddy Holly, singer of the number-one song *That'll be the Day*, was killed when his plane crashed during bad weather. He was just 22. Holly, as well as his vocal talents, was also recognised for his distinctive dress sense and style. In particular, his large glasses had become something of a trademark.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the distinctive frames were chosen for Holly by Dr Davis Armistad. Originally Holly had picked out frames that were thinner and more discrete, but it was after seeing Phil Silvers' comic portrayal of Sergeant Bilko, wearing thick heavy-set frames, that Armistad realised Holly needed something similar. With nothing locally available, Armistad's hunt took him to Mexico City, where he was able to obtain a pair. Holly liked the glasses and they quickly became an indelible part of his image.

Due to the sheer force of the impact, the plane's wreckage was spread out over some 300m and Holly's iconic glasses could not be found. In fact, due to the snowy weather many items remained lost until the spring thaw. When Holly's glasses were finally recovered, they very quickly went missing again. It wasn't until over 20 years later, on 29 February 1980, that news broke that the glasses had been discovered in Mason City, Iowa.

The reason why the glasses had not been immediately returned to Holly's family was nothing sinister. They hadn't been stolen for sale to a private collector or pocketed by an ardent fan. Instead, they had been filed away in a sealed envelope at the office of the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff. Here they'd remained, until Sheriff Jerry Allen opened the envelope in 1980 and returned them to Holly's widow, Maria Elena Holly.

The iconic glasses are now among the exhibits on display at the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock, Texas. Outside the museum also stands a vast sculpture of the spectacles as a tribute one of rock and roll's biggest stars.

FOUL PLAY?

After the crash, a pistol purportedly carried by Holly was found among the wreckage. The pistol's discovery was key to wild rumours in the press that the singer's death had been more than just a tragic accident.

FANATICAL FAN

According to Larry Lehmer's *The Day the Music Died*, when news of the glasses' rediscovery was made public, one fan tried to purchase them for $502.37 – his entire life savings. However, a court ruled that the glasses should be returned to Holly's widow.

DAMAGED GOODS

Upon the spectacles' rediscovery in 1980 they were found to be severely damaged. Both lenses were broken and not in the frame, one ear piece was snapped and the plastic was scratched and damaged.

$80,000 PAIR OF SPECTACLES

According to *Texas Monthly*, 18 years after they were returned to her, Holly's widow Maria decided to sell the glasses in 1998 to the Lubbock Civic Center for $80,000.

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EARLY ROCK AND ROLLERS

A selection of some of the musicians who kickstarted the rock and roll movement in America

Sister Rosetta Tharpe
1915-73

Only inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2018, Sister Rosetta Tharpe is one of rock and roll's most overlooked stars. She grew up singing in church groups and later combined gospel, jazz and blues to create her own style of music. Playing the guitar as a Black woman in the 1930s was unusual and yet Tharpe forged her way in the music industry, becoming extremely successful. While later rock and rollers like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley are remembered as the founders of the genre, both cited Tharpe as a huge influence on their music.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe has continued to be admired by musicians from across musical genres, including Johnny Cash and Eric Clapton.

Robert Johnson
1911-38

Robert Johnson is considered by many to be the first ever rock star and his legendary status stands testament to the impact he had on the emergence of rock and roll. Though little is known about his life, the infamous myth surrounding Johnson is that he met the Devil at a crossroads and sold his soul in return for his skill on the guitar. His style and mastery of the instrument influenced many early rock and roll musicians.

WANDA JACKSON 1937 – PRESENT

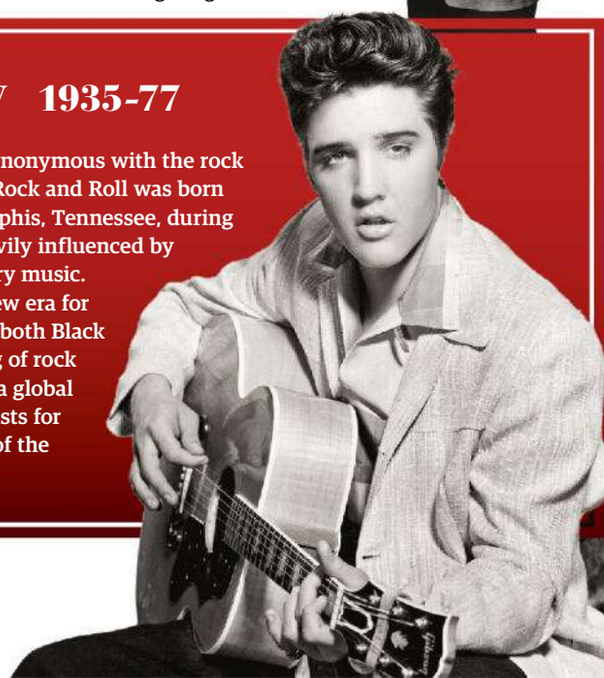
The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame describes Wanda Jackson as "one of the first women to break into rock and roll's boys' club". Beginning her career in country music, she was convinced to branch out into rock and roll after Elvis Presley suggested it to her when they toured together in 1955. With hits like *Let's Have A Party*, she forged her way as a rare female artist in early rock and roll.

BILL HALEY 1925-81

As frontman of the band Bill Haley & His Comets, Haley was one of the first singers in the new genre of rock and roll. In 1967 he told *Rolling Stone* magazine: "We premiered it. We put country and western together with rhythm and blues, and that was rock." The band's *(We're Gonna) Rock Around The Clock* reached number one in 1954 and became one of the biggest-selling songs of all time.

Elvis Presley 1935-77

Elvis Presley is the name most synonymous with the rock and roll movement. The King of Rock and Roll was born in Mississippi but moved to Memphis, Tennessee, during his childhood. There, he was heavily influenced by R&B, as well as gospel and country music. His unique sound ushered in a new era for music, creating opportunities for both Black and white musicians, and a string of rock and roll hits helped him become a global sensation. His music inspired artists for generations and he remains one of the best-selling musicians of all time.



McKinley Morganfield earned the moniker Muddy Waters from his habit of playing in a creek as a young boy.

Muddy Waters
1913-83

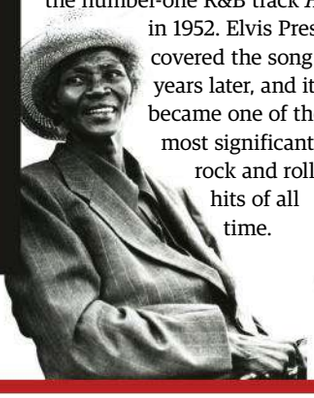
Though Muddy Waters was primarily a blues artist, he is considered to be one of the founding fathers of rock and roll. Born McKinley Morganfield in Mississippi, Waters grew up playing music in the style of figures like Robert Johnson. His style evolved when he realised he needed to engage audiences in noisy clubs and so he bought an electric guitar. With a new amplified sound, Waters and his band (described as the prototypical rock band) inspired a new generation of rock and roll musicians. Chuck Berry, BB King and Jimi Hendrix all performed covers of Waters' songs.

LAVERN BAKER 1929-97

LaVern Baker was one of the first women to encapsulate the essence of rock and roll. Combining blues, jazz and R&B, Baker was perceived as a diva, and her impressive vocals helped her achieve several hits with Atlantic Records. Her style moved away from traditional R&B and helped define 1950s rock and roll. In 1991, she became only the second woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

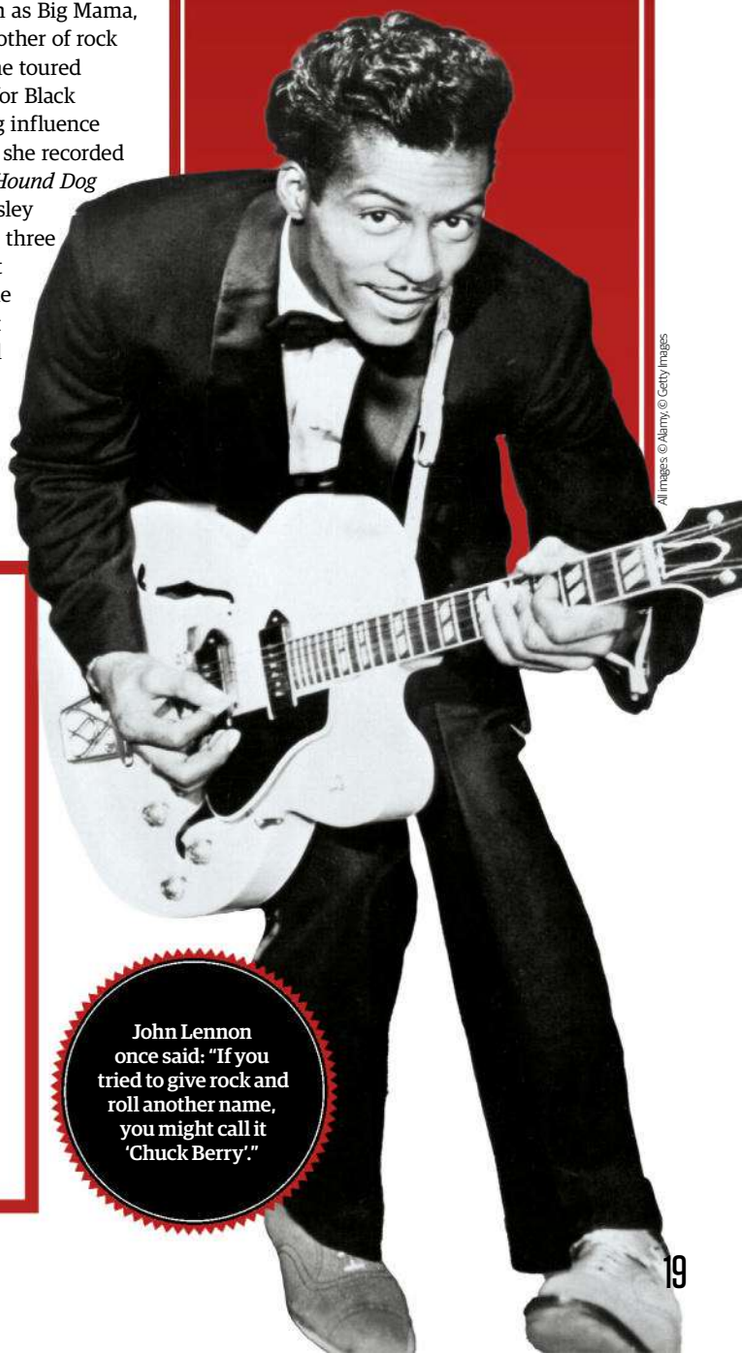
BIG MAMA THORNTON
1926-84

Willie Mae Thornton, known as Big Mama, is often referred to as the mother of rock and roll. As a blues singer she toured the Chitlin' Circuit (venues for Black artists in the US). Her lasting influence on rock and roll came when she recorded the number-one R&B track *Hound Dog* in 1952. Elvis Presley covered the song three years later, and it became one of the most significant rock and roll hits of all time.

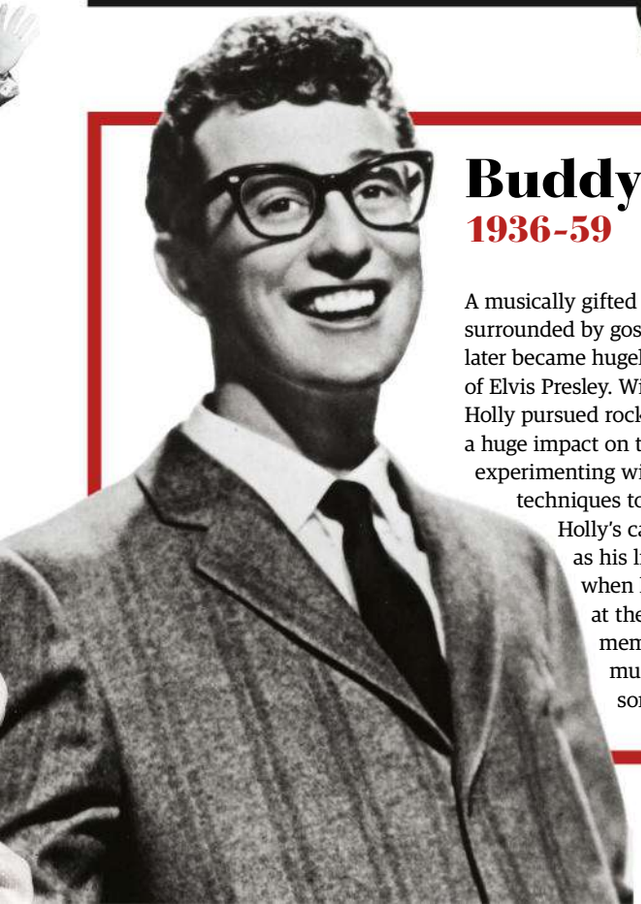


Chuck Berry
1926 – 2017

Referred to as the king of rock and roll by Stevie Wonder, Chuck Berry's unique style of music caught the attention of Muddy Waters, who told him to meet with Chess Records. Shortly afterwards, Berry released the rock and roll track *Maybellene*. A successful career followed as Berry established rock and roll as a popular music genre. With numerous hits, including *Johnny B Goode*, Berry's music transcended racial segregation and appealed to a wide audience. His impact as a pioneer of rock and roll saw him become the first inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in 1986.



John Lennon once said: "If you tried to give rock and roll another name, you might call it 'Chuck Berry'."



Buddy Holly
1936-59

A musically gifted child, Buddy Holly grew up surrounded by gospel and bluegrass music, but later became hugely influenced by the style of Elvis Presley. With his band The Crickets, Holly pursued rock and roll music and made a huge impact on the genre in a short time, experimenting with different recording techniques to produce several hits. Holly's career only lasted two years as his life was cut tragically short when he was killed in a plane crash at the age of 22. His death was memorialised as "the day the music died" in Don McLean's song *American Pie* (1971).

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Q&A

THE EVOLUTION OF ROCK AND ROLL

Glenn Gass guides us through the development of rock and roll and its cultural significance

When was the first time rock and roll was played and how did this come about?

That's the hardest question of all to answer because there is no answer! Rock and roll was so many different things but I'll start with one hot July night in Memphis when Elvis Presley and his little trio company recorded a blues song called *That's All Right Mama* in Sam Phillips' Sun Studio. He ended up putting Bill Monroe's bluegrass classic *Blue Moon of Kentucky* on the B-side of the single and you have the equation right there: rhythm and blues, and country and western, combined equals something different than either one of them.

Elvis had been going to Beale Street watching Black musicians and Black audiences and feeling this freedom that he just did not find in the world he came from. To me, it's cause for celebration that some white kid in the South would want to perform his own version of Black music. [America] is the great melting pot, as we always tell ourselves, and this is the perfect example. It's sad that it took a white artist to make rock and roll a commercial force and a pop phenomena. In a just world Chuck Berry or Little Richard would have been the kings of rock and roll but they didn't have the magic or the charisma that Elvis had. He combined pop ambition with all these different musics that he grew up next door to, just by virtue of being a musically inclined Southerner with good ears and an open mind who loved all kinds of music, and he mixed them all up. So did Ray Charles, so did Little Richard, so did all the original heroes of American rock and roll. They all mixed up gospel, country, blues, rhythm and blues, boogie woogie, jazz and pop. Every kind of music you can think of somehow feeds into rock and roll, which is beautiful.

Glenn Gass is provost professor and Rudy professor emeritus of Music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He has taught courses on the history of rock and popular music for 40 years and is known as Doctor Rock. Gass is also the author of *A History of Rock Music: The Rock & Roll Era* (McGraw-Hill, 1994).

How did rock and roll evolve from its earliest incarnation?

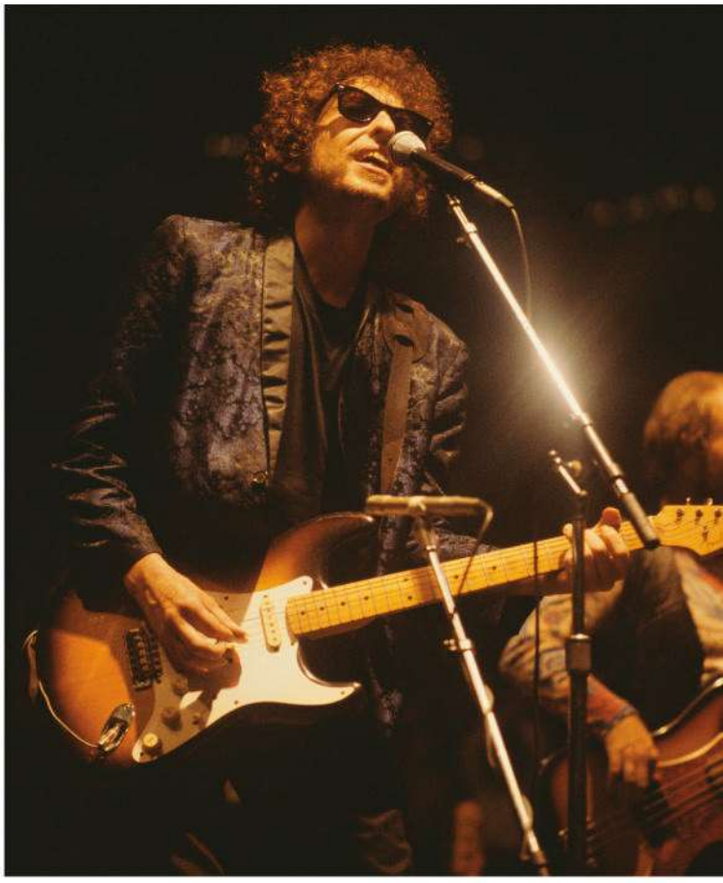
It certainly evolved from all these different sources into something that was very unique. It was not rhythm and blues by another name anymore, it was rock and roll. The 1950s were certainly the golden era in the classic rock and roll era. The cliche is that rock and roll died with Buddy Holly's plane crash in 1959 and The Beatles, who were modelled on Buddy Holly more than anybody else, brought it back to life in 1962/63 over in England and in 1964 [in America], but it underwent a phenomenal transformation. The Beatles had already absorbed, like Elvis and the others in the South, all these different kinds of music: hard rock and roll Little Richard songs and pretty Shirelles girl group songs and music hall songs. They were good at all this stuff and combined them without thinking about it. Again, like Elvis and the early rockers, it wasn't a conscious 'I'm going to combine this with this and create this' - they just did

RIGHT
Sun Studio in Memphis where Elvis recorded *That's All Right Mama*

Photo courtesy of: Annalese Poorman Photography

LEFT
The Beatles drove the rock and roll movement in Britain

BELOW
Bob Dylan's lyrics brought a new dimension to rock and roll music



it. They were their own influence - they didn't have to put on a Chuck Berry record before they recorded *Roll Over Beethoven*. [Rock and roll] developed very quickly thanks to the Brits, who woke [Americans] up to our own music, which we had forgotten, and changed it in the process and opened up new possibilities for the music.

Why was the development and popularisation of rock and roll music so culturally important?

[Rock and roll music] as our culture, or counterculture as it became for young people, took on a much more loaded meaning. When you throw Bob Dylan into the equation with his words that actually resonate and have importance at a time of great import with the Vietnam War and the civil rights struggle going on, young people had a soundtrack to their concerns and to their lives. It completely changed the definition of what pop music was but it also became a cultural force. It was a common language. One thing we all had was rock and roll and that was the code we spoke in and the way we thought. Popular music by its nature keeps changing, and it's changed a lot. It was rock and roll that made pop music the music of youth, of dancing, of rebellion, of fun. It changed the meaning of pop music or maybe just made it new for a new era and it keeps reinventing itself. And like Beethoven or Mozart, the best of it is still around. Fifty years later we're still going through all these Beatles reissues and celebrations. The classics are still the classics, and the new stuff is often still great.

Can you tell us a bit about some of the most influential people in rock and roll history?

If I had to pick the timeless greats, I would have to narrow it to The Beatles and Bob Dylan. That's really the two solar systems clashing: The Beatles music and Dylan's lyrics. That's what made the 1960s so different from the 1950s and everything else that had gone before. No one had thought to write about changing the world in a pop song and I certainly think they've influenced everything that has come after in ways that are obvious and ways that weren't obvious at all. You can't even imagine the musical landscape we'd be in if it wasn't for those two forces.

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MUSEUMS OF ROCK AND ROLL

Five museums that trace the history of rock music and the musicians who pioneered it

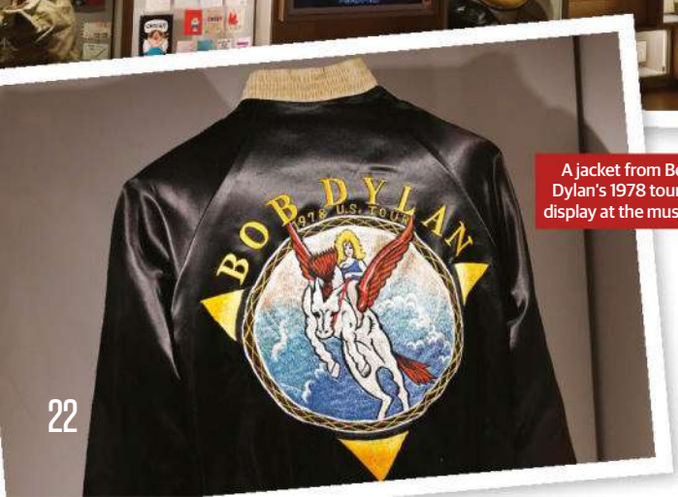
1 BOB DYLAN CENTER
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Bob Dylan is one of rock and roll's most famous singers, with a career spanning over six decades. He began as a folk singer but during the 1960s Dylan started to experiment with more rock and roll stylings. Unlike most other artists in the genre he is also renowned as a gifted wordsmith whose lyrics demonstrate a poetic skill for the written word. Among the singer-songwriter's most famous works are *Blowin' in the Wind* and *The Times They Are a-Changin'*.

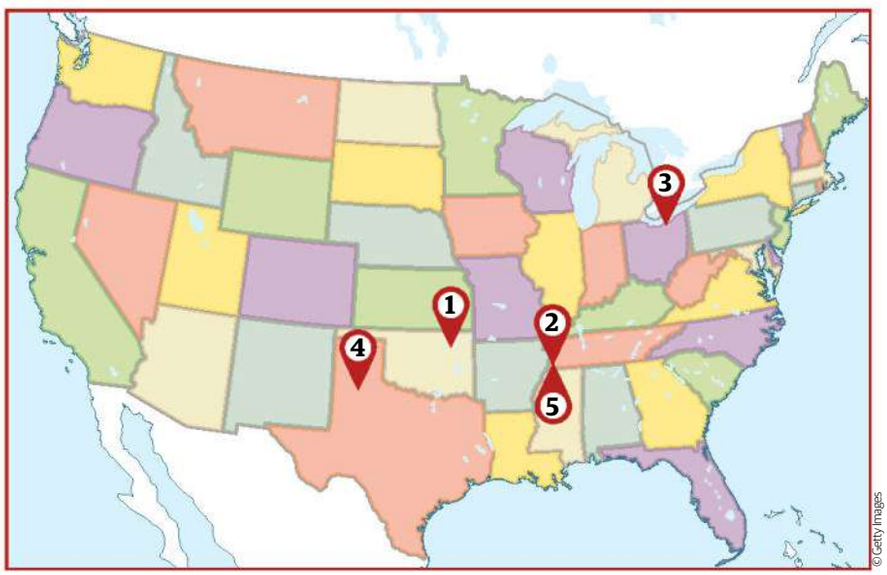
The Bob Dylan Center is a tribute to this musical genius and houses a vast collection of artefacts related to his career, including hand-written song manuscripts and memorabilia. There is a screening room, in which can be viewed rare and previously unseen footage and archive materials, while a separate immersive film experience tells Dylan's story through music, film and narration. The centre also hosts an ever-changing series of exhibitions, focussing on creativity.

Open 10am-6pm Wednesday to Sunday. Average tickets cost $12 for adults, though other options are available

Some of the artefacts on display at the Bob Dylan Center



A jacket from Bob Dylan's 1978 tour on display at the museum



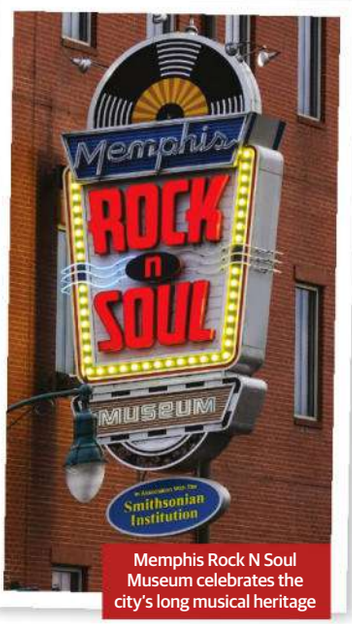
© Getty Images

2 MEMPHIS ROCK N SOUL MUSEUM
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Memphis' relationship with rock and roll goes well beyond Elvis Presley, and the city has a rich musical history. The Memphis Rock N Soul Museum celebrates this legacy through a variety of exhibitions and artefacts. From the rural music of the 1930s to the rock and roll boom of the 1950s and in particular the 1970s, when the city became one of the key centre's of American popular music, the museum leaves no stone unturned when exploring Memphis' musical past.

The exhibit Sun Records & Youth Culture will be of particular interest to rock and roll fans. The label, founded by Sam Phillips in 1952, had such artists signed to it as Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash, and even recorded the king himself, Elvis Presley. But more than simply telling the story of the Memphis label, the exhibit sets out to demonstrate the importance of rock and roll music to 1950s and 1960s youth culture. The theme of how music reflects societal changes is demonstrated in other exhibits, such as Social Changes, which explores Memphis music's relation to social and civil rights campaigns.

Open daily 10am-5pm. Average tickets cost $13 for adults, though other options are also available



Memphis Rock N Soul Museum celebrates the city's long musical heritage

The distinctive Rock & Roll Hall of Fame was designed by architect IM Pei

The sign 'Long Live Rock' stands outside the entrance

3 ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Cleveland, Ohio, has a unique place in the history of rock and roll. In fact, it was local DJ Alan Freed who during the 1950s coined the term while playing rhythm and blues records. Freed then took this one step further and on 21 March 1952 hosted the first rock concert, the Moondog Coronation Ball, which resulted in chaos when it oversold by more than 10,000 tickets. It was due to the city's rich history that Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun and the publisher of *Rolling Stone* magazine, Jann Wenner, chose Cleveland as the site for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's permanent museum to the history of rock music. Prior to this an intense period of campaigning had occurred as various cities all over the USA such as New York, New Orleans and Chicago all petitioned to be the home city for the project.

Built on the shores of Lake Erie, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame opened to the public in 1995. Among the many artefacts held within its walls are Johnny Cash's 1979 tour bus, John Lennon's Sergeant Pepper jacket and Kurt Cobain's Stratocastor guitar, which he famously destroyed with a drill during the *In Utero* tour. It also has an extensive collection of archives and documents pertaining to the history of rock and roll, and also regularly plays host to lectures, symposiums and concerts.

Open daily 10am-5pm. Ticket prices vary, with the average adult ticket price costing $35

This statue of Buddy Holly is a short walk from the centre

4 BUDDY HOLLY CENTER
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Buddy Holly is one of the most important figures in the history of rock and roll, and his distinctive glasses and smart-suited style are as instantly recognisable as his music. He was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas, and the town now houses the Buddy Holly Center in his memory.

The Buddy Holly Center contains a number of galleries that tell the story of the musician's humble beginnings in the town to his eventual transformation into one of rock and roll's all-time greats. Some of the items among the collection include his Stratocaster guitar as well as his personal record collection. An impressive sculpture of Holly's trademark glasses greets visitors as they approach the entrance.

The Buddy Holly Center regularly hosts concerts and even welcomed Paul McCartney to its stage in 2014. There is also a fine arts gallery with regularly rotating exhibitions. Located near the Buddy Holly Center is the West Texas Hall of Fame – Buddy Holly is prominent among the notable figures featured and a statue of him stands outside.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm; and Sunday, 1pm-5pm. Ticket prices vary, with the average adult ticket price costing $10

5 GRACELAND
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Between 1957 until his death in 1977 this impressive mansion was the home of Elvis Presley. At the age of 22, he purchased the mansion for the princely sum of around $100,000. Elvis' parents moved in with their son as did his grandmother. Over the 20 years that Elvis was in residence a number of other family members would also live with him. He had previously purchased another home in Memphis, but his obsessive fans proved difficult to control and he instead sought out a property where he and his family could have greater privacy. One of the most memorable rooms inside the house is The Jungle Room, decorated with green shag carpets and with a tropical theme.

Following Elvis' death, his widow Priscilla oversaw the development of Graceland into a tribute to her husband and it remains one of the major rock and roll tourist destinations in the United States. The mansion can be visited, with the rooms maintaining much of the look that they acquired during the 1960s and 1970s. Also on site is Elvis Presley's Memphis, a vast museum and exhibition centre covering many aspects of Elvis' life. These include the Elvis: The Entertainer Career Museum, the Hollywood Backlot exhibition and the Elvis Automobile Museum, which displays some of the king of rock and roll's favourite cars from his vast collection.

Open daily 9am-4pm. Ticket prices vary depending on the areas you would like to visit

Many of Elvis' iconic stage outfits are on display at Graceland

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VICTORIAN MEDICINE

Discover how horror surgeries and bizarre theories matured into a modern science

Written by Dr Agnes Arnold-Forster

EXPERT BIO

© Steve Cross

DR AGNES ARNOLD-FORSTER

Dr Agnes Arnold-Forster is a researcher, writer and historian at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Her first book, *The Cancer Problem* (Oxford University Press) was published in 2021 and she is currently working on a book about the history of nostalgia with Picador.

Illustration by Joe Cummings

In the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, a surgeon called Dr Robert Liston was working at a London hospital. He had a considerable reputation. In one of his many infamous cases, he was amputating a patient's leg when his flaying knife accidentally removed his assistant's fingers. The patient died from an infection, as did the luckless assistant, while someone watching the operation died from shock after Liston's knife slashed through the poor man's coat tails. It remains the only operation in surgical history with a 300 percent mortality rate.

The problem with this story is that it probably isn't true. The only evidence it happened comes from a book called *Great Medical Disasters* written more than a century later, in 1983, by the doctor and author Richard Gordon (1921 – 2017). There are no primary sources to confirm Liston's apocryphal operation ever took place. Indeed, Gordon was more a fan of fiction than fact. He is most famous for his *Doctor in the House* series of novels that satirised the medical world of the 1950s and 1960s.

Despite this lack of evidence, the tale of Liston's 300 percent mortality rate is everywhere: in medical journals, in history books and in every biography of the man ever written. But this story doesn't just shape the reputation of Liston himself. The invention contributes to the general idea that Victorian medicine, and particularly surgery, was cruel, dramatic and bloody, and that 19th century doctors were emotionally detached, even barbaric. But the real story is a lot more complicated, and much more interesting.

VICTORIAN DISEASES

Victorian doctors dealt with many of the same diseases we do today. Patients lived and died with chronic conditions like cancer, heart disease and kidney failure. In 1856, a woman living in London called Emily Bowes Gosse felt a lump in her breast. She consulted her doctor, who immediately diagnosed her with cancer and recommended she get her affairs in order and prepare for death. She sought a second opinion, desperate for better news. But despite attempting various painful and invasive treatments, just a few months after her first diagnosis she began a rapid decline. She suffered "very much from sleeplessness" and underwent "fits of exceeding depression". At night, she experienced "the most painful restlessness". She lost the use of her left arm, and her shoulder ached. She could no longer speak or swallow and complained of the "dullness of her spirit". Emily had been an avid writer and keen Biblical scholar, but now she was "unable to read more than a verse or two at a time; unable even to bear that one should read to her." She could not be raised in bed without agony, her nights were "wretched", consumed with terrible coughing episodes, and she could no longer move her arms or legs. Bed-sores covered her body, and breathing was "performed with increased difficulty." Eventually she died in February 1857. It's quite unusual for an account of a female patient's final illness to have been recorded in such detail and survived for us to read today. But from what we do know about diseases like cancer in the 19th century, Emily's experience was tragic but representative.

ABOVE Jean Martin Charcot gives a lesson in 'hysteria' to his students at la Salpêtrière, Paris

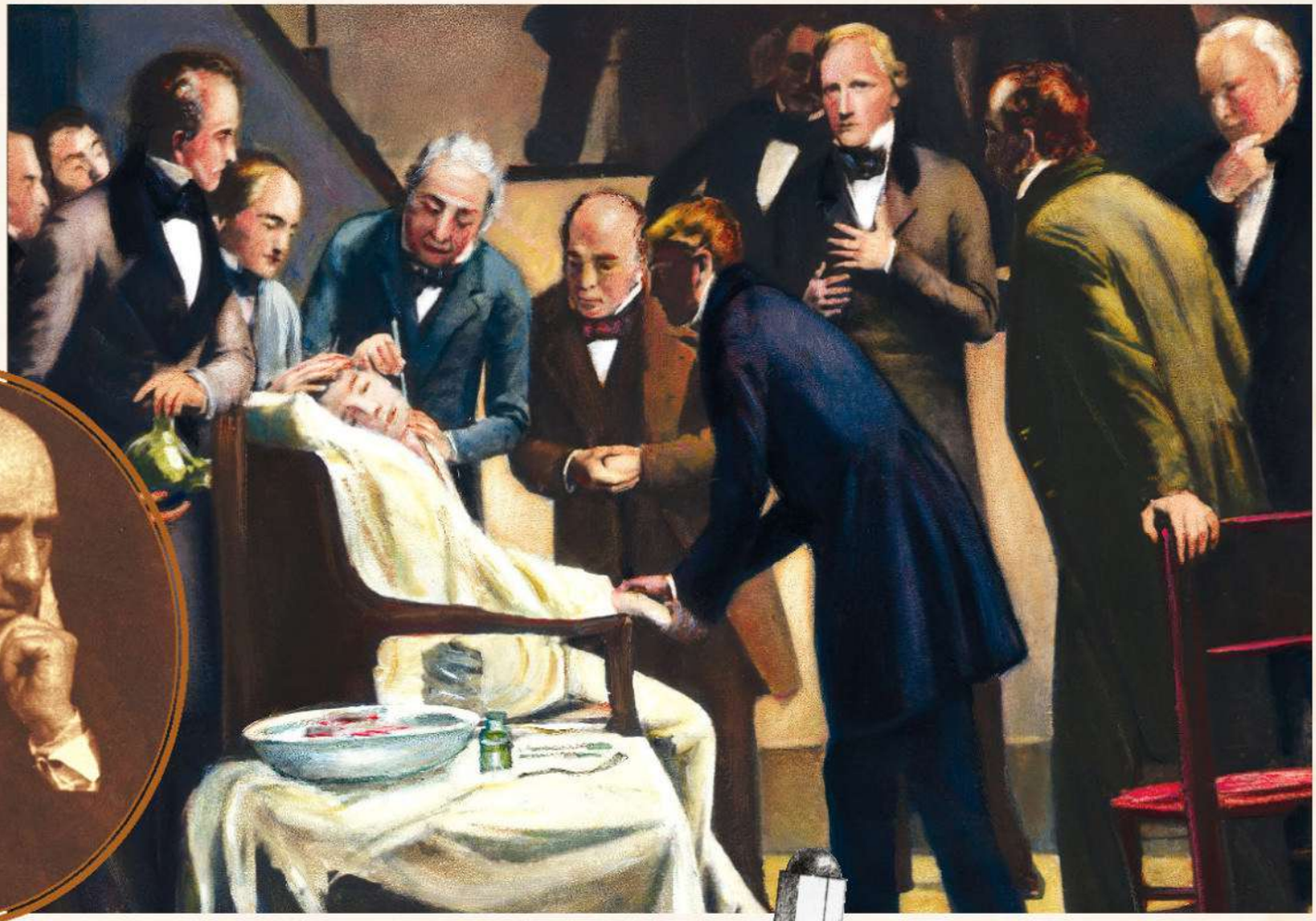
MIDDLE The surgeon Robert Liston was noted for the speed of his surgeries, which was vital in an age before anaesthetics

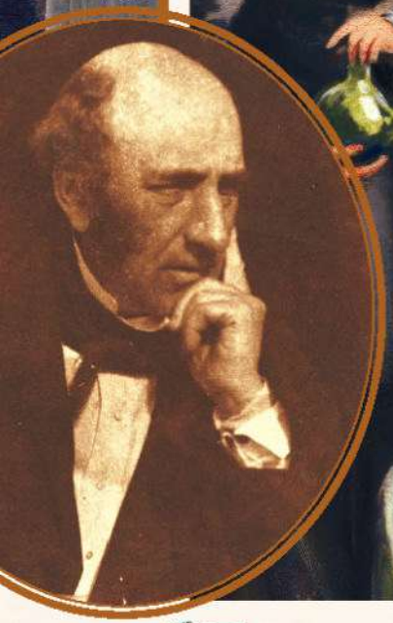
RIGHT The first operation with the patient under ether was a breakthrough in surgery

Adults and children alike also succumbed to infectious ailments including influenza, measles, the common cold and the straightforward stomach bug. Patients suffered from mental illness and psychiatric disorders like anxiety, psychosis, and schizophrenia – even if the terminology doctors used was different from our own. They bandied around strange terms like 'melancholia', 'neurasthenia' and 'hysteria' to describe conditions roughly similar to our own depression, nervous breakdowns and bipolar disorder.

They also had to treat diseases that have, at least in the West, mostly been managed, and in some cases disappeared entirely. In their millions, the Victorians died from cholera, tuberculosis and smallpox. 'Asiatic' cholera first arrived in Britain in 1832 and in that year alone 52,000 people died. Once contracted, symptoms of this deadly disease included ▶

THEY BANDIED AROUND STRANGE TERMS LIKE 'MELANCOLIA', 'NEURASTHENIA' AND 'HYSTERIA' TO DESCRIBE CONDITIONS





NEW EQUIPMENT

Medical inventions that emerged from the Victorian era

Ophthalmoscope

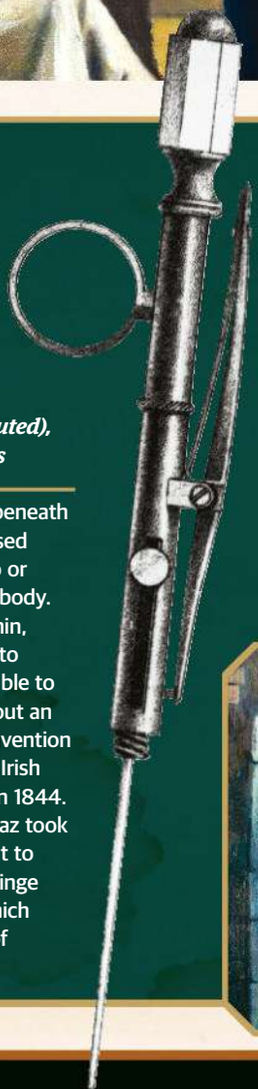
Hermann von Helmholtz, Germany, 1851

The ophthalmoscope enables opticians and doctors to closely examine the interior surface of the eye, which is useful not only for accurately prescribing glasses but can also be used to examine retinal blood vessels and detect high blood pressure and arterial disease. Glaucoma and tumours can also be discovered using an ophthalmoscope. Using reflecting glass and a concave lens, Helmholtz developed a way to enable physicians to illuminate the retina and observe it at the same time.

Hypodermic syringe

Charles Pravaz or Alexander Wood (disputed), France/Scotland, 1850s

Hypodermic (meaning 'beneath the skin') syringes are used to inject substances into or extract liquids from the body. They consist of a very thin, hollow needle attached to a syringe. It was impossible to perform injections without an incision until after the invention of the hollow needle by Irish physician Francis Rynd in 1844. Frenchman Charles Pravaz took his design and adapted it to create a hypodermic syringe operated by a screw, which controlled the amount of substance injected.



X-rays

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, Germany, 1895

During one of Professor Röntgen's experiments with cathode ray tubes, he noticed a fluorescent glow was being created on a material located a few feet away from the tube, despite the fact that he'd covered it. For the next few weeks he investigated the many properties what he called 'X-rays'. He discovered that the rays could pass through human tissue, but not through bones and metal objects, and in late 1895 he took his first photograph of a human body part using X-rays – of his wife's hand.

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DRUG BREAKTHROUGHS

The new medicines of the Victorians

Anaesthetic

William TG Morton, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, United States, 16 October 1846

It wasn't until 16 October 1846 that William TG Morton's research saw the first surgical demonstration using a real anaesthetic. He had experimented with different chemicals to find one that rendered the patient unconscious so they were unable to move or feel pain while the procedure was being carried out. His chemical of choice was ether gas, given to a patient to inhale, before painlessly removing a tooth.

Antiseptic

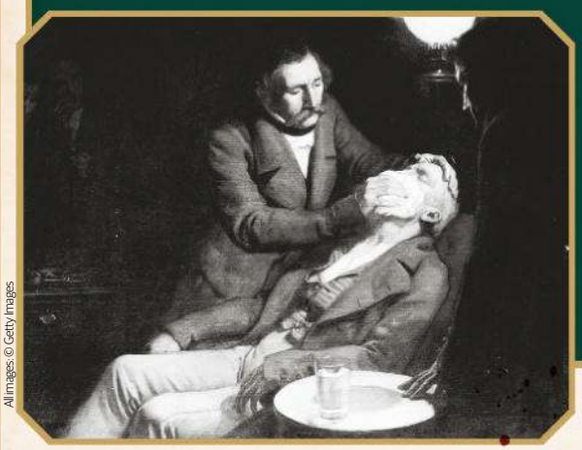
Joseph Lister, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Scotland, 12 August 1865

Joseph Lister had been present at the first surgical procedure and was aware of Louis Pasteur's research on microorganisms. He started experimenting with chemicals with the theory that they could kill the germs before they could infect a patient. He began soaking dressings in carbolic acid and noticed an immediate reduction in the mortality rate. Lister then started washing his hands, dousing his instruments in acid, and eventually spraying the solution into the air while he operated.

Aspirin

Felix Hoffmann, Bayer, Germany, 1897

Willow bark has been used as a natural treatment of pain since the ancient Greeks, and French pharmacist Henri Leroux managed to isolate the key chemical, salicylic acid, in 1829. The aspirin we use today was developed in the late 1890s by Felix Hoffman. He had produced acetylsalicylic, a compound that kept the original active ingredient from willow bark but eased the nausea and vomiting that were common side effects of the drug in its pure form.



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stomach cramps, 'looseness of the bowels', vomiting, terrible pain in the limbs and severe dehydration. Sufferers appeared "sharp and contracted, the eye sinks, the look is expressive of terror and wildness... The skin is deadly cold and often damp, the tongue always moist, often white and loaded, but flabby and chilled like a piece of dead flesh." There was no known cure and the disease could "suddenly assume a fatal form," sometimes within just hours of the first symptoms.

The poor were desperately malnourished, and lived with the after-effects of diseases of deficiency like scurvy and rickets. Childbirth was dangerous, with a high mortality rate for both mother and baby. And in an age before antibiotics, anyone particularly accident prone or who underwent surgery was vulnerable to ferocious infections and sepsis. A simple cut or a broken bone could rapidly prove deadly.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL TREATMENTS

The Victorian world was a dangerous one. But doctors had a lot of weird, wonderful and sometimes quite dubious remedies in their therapeutic arsenal. Like today, cancer was treated with surgery, chemotherapies and, by the end of the 19th century, radiation therapy. Unlike today, doctors also deployed treatments like bloodletting, purgatives, leeches and corrosive substances, and even reptiles were consumed as part of proposed cancer cures. Patients were instructed to ingest noxious chemicals and tinctures including belladonna, cyanide and mercury. One physician reported a patient who, "affected with a cancerous tumour in the face," swallowed "upwards of 400 grey lizards in the course of two months." Unfortunately (not least for the lizards), this treatment was met "without obvious effect of any kind."

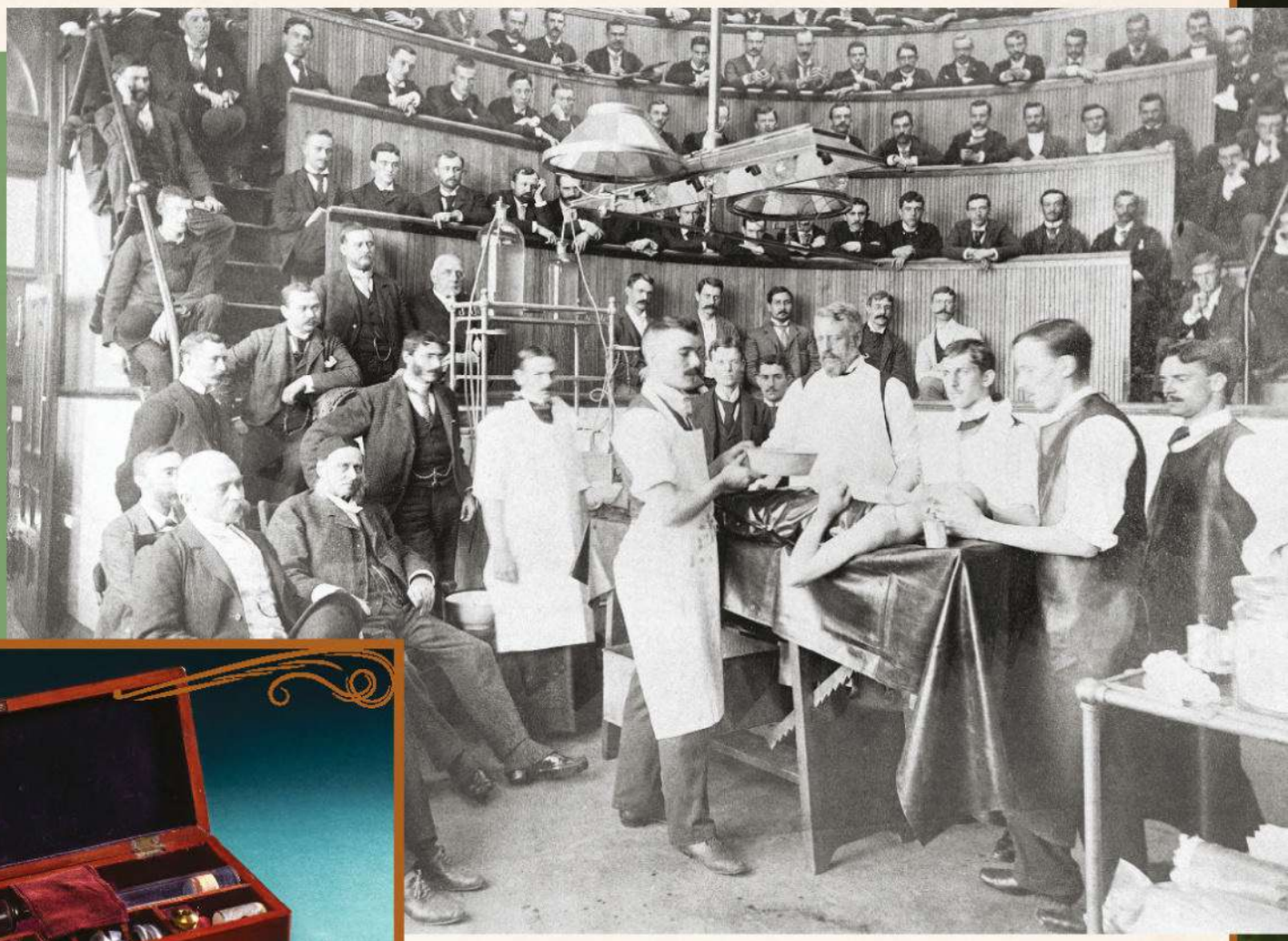
Some treatments recommended by Victorian doctors were a lot less invasive. Patients with an array of chronic and infectious conditions were instructed to take long walks, eat wholesome food, spend time by the sea or retreat to the Alps for the fresh mountain air.

VICTORIAN DOCTORS ALSO BELIEVED THAT SOME DISEASES WERE CAUSED BY A MIASMA, A NOXIOUS CLOUD OF TOXIC, ILLNESS-CAUSING FUMES

STRANGE THEORIES

Many of these treatments were based on a very different understanding of diseases and their causes than the one we hold today. Victorians did know that some diseases could be passed directly from person to person, via invisible or microscopic 'germs'. If someone died from the plague, for example, then they knew to burn the deceased person's belongings to try and stop the disease from being spread to friends and family. Ships travelling from foreign countries, or from places with known, ongoing epidemics, were quarantined in harbours and their sailors were prevented from coming ashore for weeks, sometimes months.

However, Victorian doctors also believed that some diseases were caused by a miasma, a noxious cloud of toxic, illness-causing fumes. The disease malaria, for example, literally translates to 'bad air'. Miasmatic theory suggested that epidemics were caused by this 'bad air' emanating



RIGHT An early image of a surgical procedure being conducted in front of a full audience

BELOW An 'artificial leech' case for bloodletting to rebalance 'humours' from around 1850

BOTTOM Florence Nightingale lead major reforms to hygiene as a nurse in the Crimean War

from rotting organic matter. The theory was first developed by the Ancient Greek physician Hippocrates in the 4th century BCE. It proved remarkably enduring and influential and shaped public health responses to disease outbreak for millennia. In the Victorian age, medical efforts during epidemics focused on the removal of waste, the importance of fresh air and the need to clean up areas of towns and cities where poor people lived in cramped, unsanitary conditions.

By the end of the 19th century, miasmatic theory had fallen out of favour. After around 1880, slowly and unevenly, scientists and physicians replaced it with the germ theory of disease, which suggested that specific conditions were caused by specific microbes. For example, in 1882, the German physician Robert Koch found that tuberculosis was caused by the tubercle bacillus. Doctors used increasingly powerful microscopes to inspect bodily fluids from sick people and identify all sorts of offending bacteria or parasites. However, it took until the early 20th century for them to develop the electron microscope, which was powerful enough to allow scientists to see viruses, which were much smaller than other microbes.

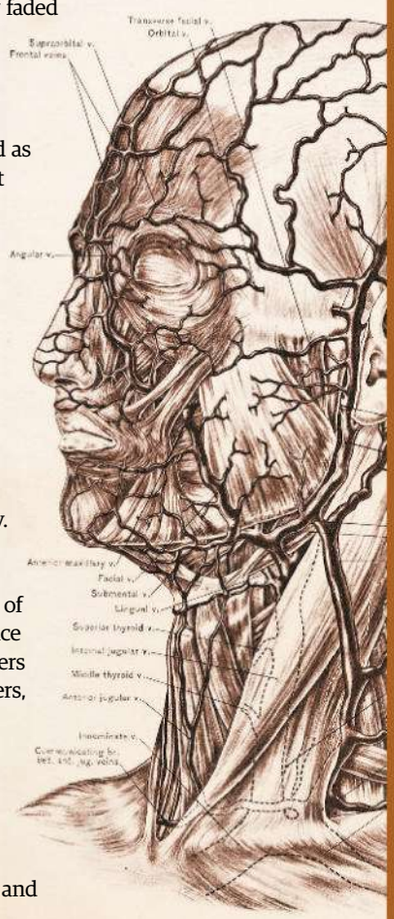
This paradigm shift in how doctors understood illness was not the only dramatic change to take place in the 19th century. The Victorian era was a time of great transformation and over the course of the period medicine became more and more similar to what it is today. In pre-Victorian medicine, almost all diseases were explained by imbalance; by bodily substances or fluids out of kilter with each other. In ancient Greece, Hippocrates and his follower Galen combined craft knowledge with ancient science and philosophy to produce a systematic explanation of the behaviour of the human body in times of both sickness and health. Key to this explanation was the role of the four 'humours': black bile, yellow bile, phlegm and blood ('humours' comes from the Latin for fluid or liquid).

The various combinations of these humours in different people determined their 'complexions' or 'temperaments', their physical and mental qualities, and their dispositions: "It cannot be denyed but our minds are affected by our humours." The ideal person, in a state of ideal health, had an evenly proportioned mixture of the four but a predominance of one produced a ▶

person who was sanguine (from the Latin for blood, meaning happy or optimistic), phlegmatic (stoic or calm), choleric (bad tempered or irritable) or melancholic (sad). Each complexion was associated with specific characteristics, and the words carried a weight that they've since lost. For example, a choleric man was not only quick to anger but also yellow-faced, lean, hairy, proud, ambitious, revengeful and shrewd.

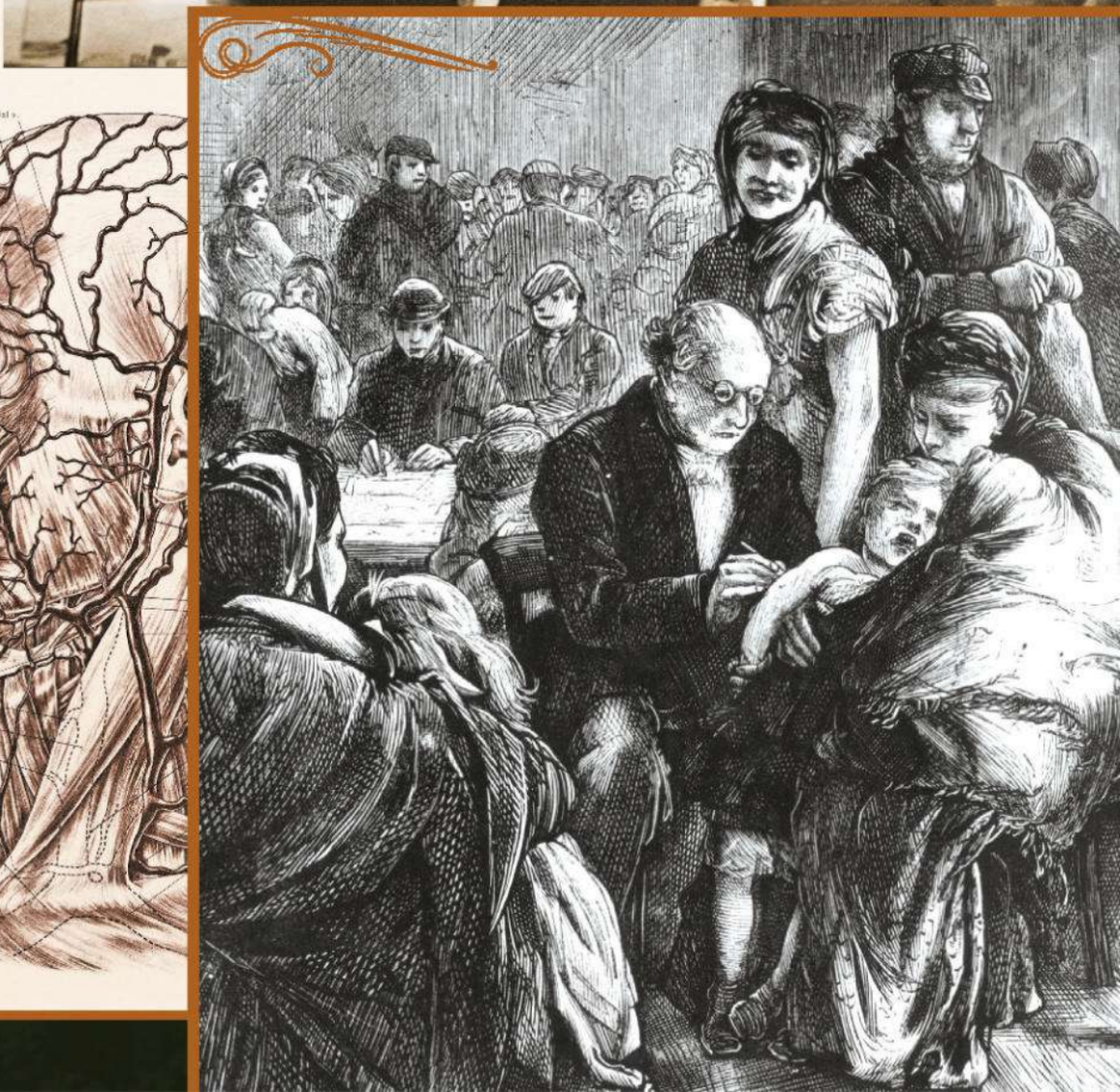
The humours also dictated disease. An excess of one fluid or another could explain someone's symptoms. Cancer, for example, was thought to be an excess in black bile congealing in a certain part of the body, amalgamating into a malignant tumour. Each humour had its own characteristic or complexion: hot, cold, wet and dry. Curing an illness involved identifying the imbalance in humour or complexion and rectifying it. A cold injury or illness must be treated with a cold remedy and vice versa.

When these humours were in balance, health prevailed; when they were out of balance, disease took over. People and their physicians collaborated to keep the humours in check and restore equilibrium by adjusting diet, exercise and the evacuation of bodily fluids. As the 19th century progressed, humoral theory – like miasmatic theory – slowly faded from view. While they might sound strange to modern ears, these ideas still circulate today. People might be described as 'hot-headed' or they might 'catch a cold' from the temperature of the air or the changing season.



MEDICINE BECOMES MODERN

New ideas, treatments and techniques were developed, but the profession of medicine also changed dramatically. Before the 19th century, doctors were held in relatively low regard, part of a busy medical marketplace populated by "mere retailers of physic," butchers, barbers, quacks and "nostrum sellers." While there were elite physicians, like the medical men who attended royalty and the aristocracy, most providers of medical care and



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LEFT
A reenactment of only the third ever operation conducted under ether

RIGHT An infant hospital in London around 1872

BELOW Children being vaccinated against smallpox in the east end of London, 1871

ALMOST ANYONE COULD CLAIM TO BE A HEALER AND THE BUYING AND SELLING OF MEDICINES WAS LARGELY UNREGULATED

treatment were relatively untrained, or trained via apprenticeship. The conventional hierarchy placed physicians above surgeons – with apothecaries and alternative practitioners somewhere below the two. Physicians traditionally trained at either Oxford or Cambridge and received broad educations full of classical literature, ethics and physiology. In the 18th century, doctors received very little practical education. In contrast, surgeons were mostly trained on the job, by apprenticeship, and had only recently separated themselves from butchers and barbers. At this time, almost anyone could claim to be a healer and the buying and selling of medicines was largely unregulated.

In the early 19th century, all that started to change. More and more doctors, regardless of status, pursued university degrees, training for surgeons in particular became more formalised, and the Apothecaries' Act (1815) and the Anatomy Act (1832) both attempted to differentiate various professionals from one another and distinguish them from unregulated healers or 'quacks'. The 1858 Medical Act gave statutory recognition for the first time to a distinct occupational category of "legally qualified Medical Practitioner." However, plenty of doctors at the time were concerned that the legislation didn't go far enough. Some reformers were bitterly disappointed, for example, that the Act did not criminalise unregulated practice, or 'quackery'.

DANGEROUS HOSPITALS

In the 18th century there were relatively few hospitals, but as the Victorian age got underway more and more specialist institutions were established. Hospitals dedicated to specific diseases like cancer and tuberculosis started to be built. And institutions dedicated to certain types of patients like lying-in hospitals for pregnant women and asylums for the mentally ill exploded in number. Before Queen Victoria ascended the throne, few people were treated in a hospital. They were dirty, dangerous places that were seen as a last resort for the sick poor. As the medical historian Lindsey Fitzharris puts it, in the 19th century "patients worldwide came to... dread the word 'hospital'." Wealthy patients were largely treated in their own homes, by their own private physician. By the end of the 19th century, hospitals had undergone something of a transformation. They were larger, cleaner, staffed by specialists and frequented by a larger cross-section of society. Fitzharris describes the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh at the beginning of the 20th century, after a century of slow change, as "bright, clean and well ventilated. No longer a house of death, it was a house of healing."

THE BUTCHERING ART

As hospitals became more numerous, and safer, surgery also became more common. The reputation of the profession at the beginning of the 19th century was pretty poor. Stories like the one about Liston's 300 percent death rate were fictional, but nonetheless characterised the way surgeons were seen by ordinary people in the early days of Queen Victoria's reign. But as their training became more formalised, and as surgeons themselves attempted to reform their own image, the profession became increasingly respected. This transformation was

helped by the introduction of anaesthesia in the 1840s. In 1846, Boston dentist William TG Morton used sulfuric ether to anaesthetise a man who needed surgery to remove a vascular tumour from his neck. In Scotland in 1847, obstetrician James Y Simpson started giving women chloroform to ease the pain of childbirth, and in 1853 the physician John Snow popularised anaesthesia by chloroforming Queen Victoria for the birth of her son Prince Leopold.

Despite these efforts, the widespread adoption of anaesthesia was relatively slow and uneven. The anaesthetics available were unpredictable and in some cases dangerous. Patients weren't used to being knocked out and some surgeons also believed that pain was a crucial and helpful tool during operations. Surgery also did not simply 'get better' after the introduction of anaesthesia. Operations before anaesthesia were performed much more quickly, and the surgeons of the early 19th century were frequently highly skilled and deeply invested in the pain and suffering of their patients, despite their bloody and barbarous reputation. For example, Scottish surgeon Charles Bell (1774 – 1842) wrote to his wife that he was "wearied – exhausted by the sufferings of others." He once told his brother: "I have had a most miserable time since I wrote to you, from the failure of an operation, and the death of a most worthy man. I shall regret it as long as I live."

Nevertheless, with the introduction of anaesthesia, surgery became a less daunting undertaking for both doctor and patient and operations became more common, especially after the development of antiseptic surgery by Joseph Lister in the 1860s and 1870s. Lister used carbolic acid to clean instruments and the hands of surgical staff, and used solutions of carbolic acid spray to reduce the level of germs in the air around the patient, on their skin and in their surgical wounds. While some of Lister's contemporaries were sceptical,

ABOVE Women attending an anatomy class at the Medical College for Women in New York

LEFT Students mixing medicines at St Thomas' Hospital in London, 1886

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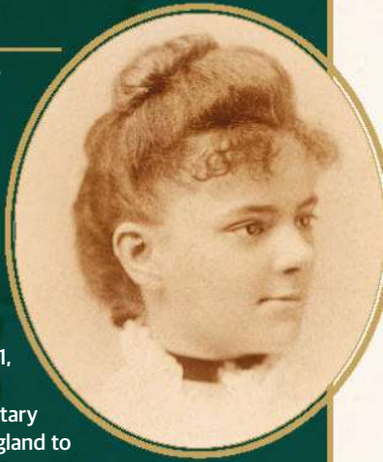
Women in the field

The pioneering doctors who broke into the male-dominated profession

Elizabeth Blackwell

1821 – 1910



Blackwell is considered to be the first modern woman doctor of medicine, having graduated top of her class from Geneva Medical College in Geneva, New York, in 1849. She worked at St Bartholomew's Hospital in England and then returned to the US to open her own dispensary before helping in the Union's Civil War effort from 1861, organising the Woman's Central Association of Relief and US Sanitary Commission. She returned to England to open a private practice from 1869.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

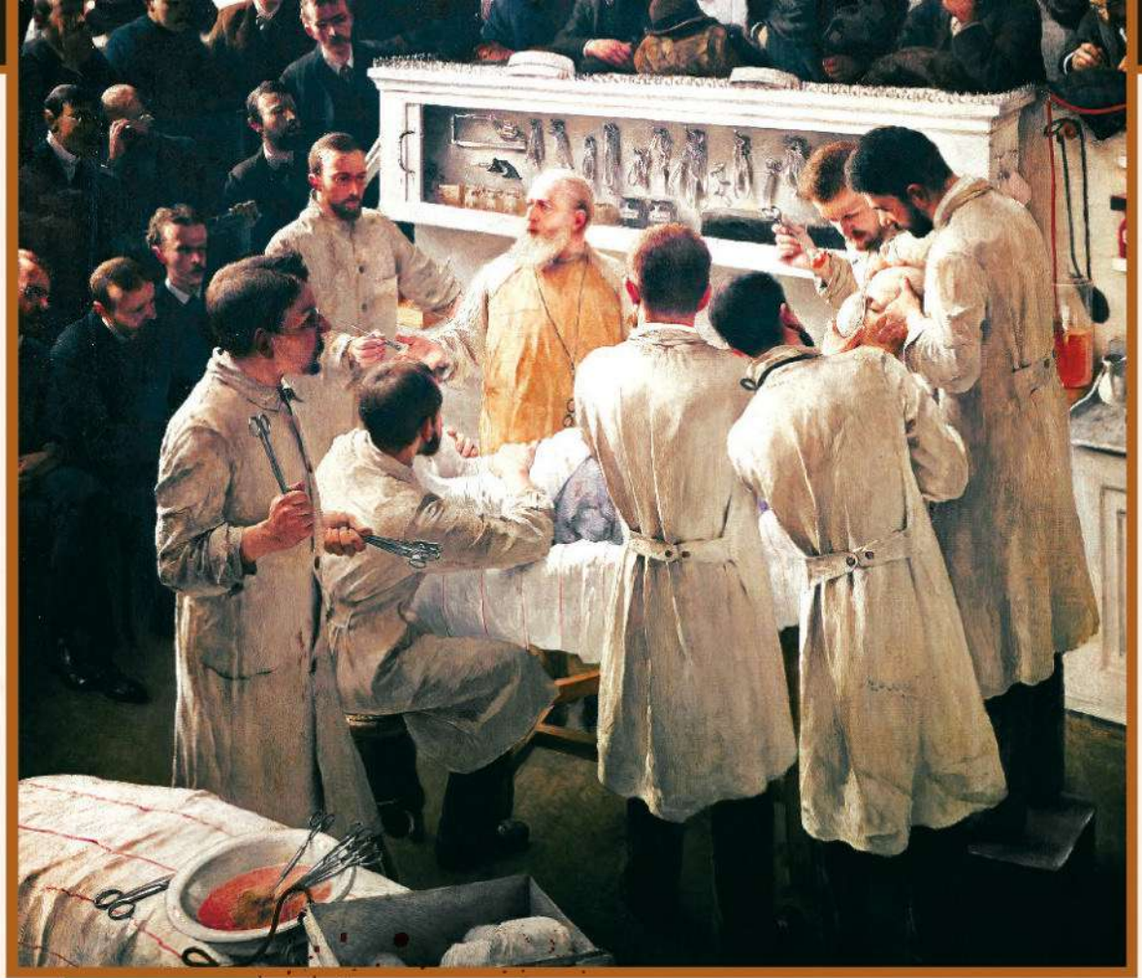
1836 – 1917

Anderson was the first woman to qualify as a doctor in England, passing the Society of Apothecaries examination in 1865 despite being barred from attending classes with male colleagues. She'd been inspired to become a doctor by Elizabeth Blackwell. She taught herself French to earn a medical degree in Paris and set up the New Hospital for Women at St Mary's Dispensary in 1872, hiring Blackwell to join her.

Sophia Jex-Blake

1840 – 1912

Jex-Blake's significant contribution to the advancement of women in medicine was successfully petitioning for legislation in Britain to permit women to receive medical degrees and licences to practice. She had studied in London and Boston before attending medical classes in Edinburgh, but was blocked from taking the degree. She got her degree instead at the University of Bern, Switzerland, in 1877, followed by a licence to practice in Britain, becoming the first practising female doctor in Scotland.



ABOVE Professor Theodor Billroth lectures on surgery in Vienna, 1880

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ANAESTHESIA, SURGERY BECAME A LESS DAUNTING UNDERTAKING FOR BOTH DOCTOR AND PATIENT

by the end of the 19th century antisepsis was widely accepted and implemented. Indeed, Lister is now probably the most famous man in the history of British medicine. He was president of the Royal Society between 1895 and 1900, was raised to the peerage in 1897 and is one of only two surgeons in the United Kingdom with a dedicated public monument. After his death in 1912, his funeral service was held at Westminster Abbey.

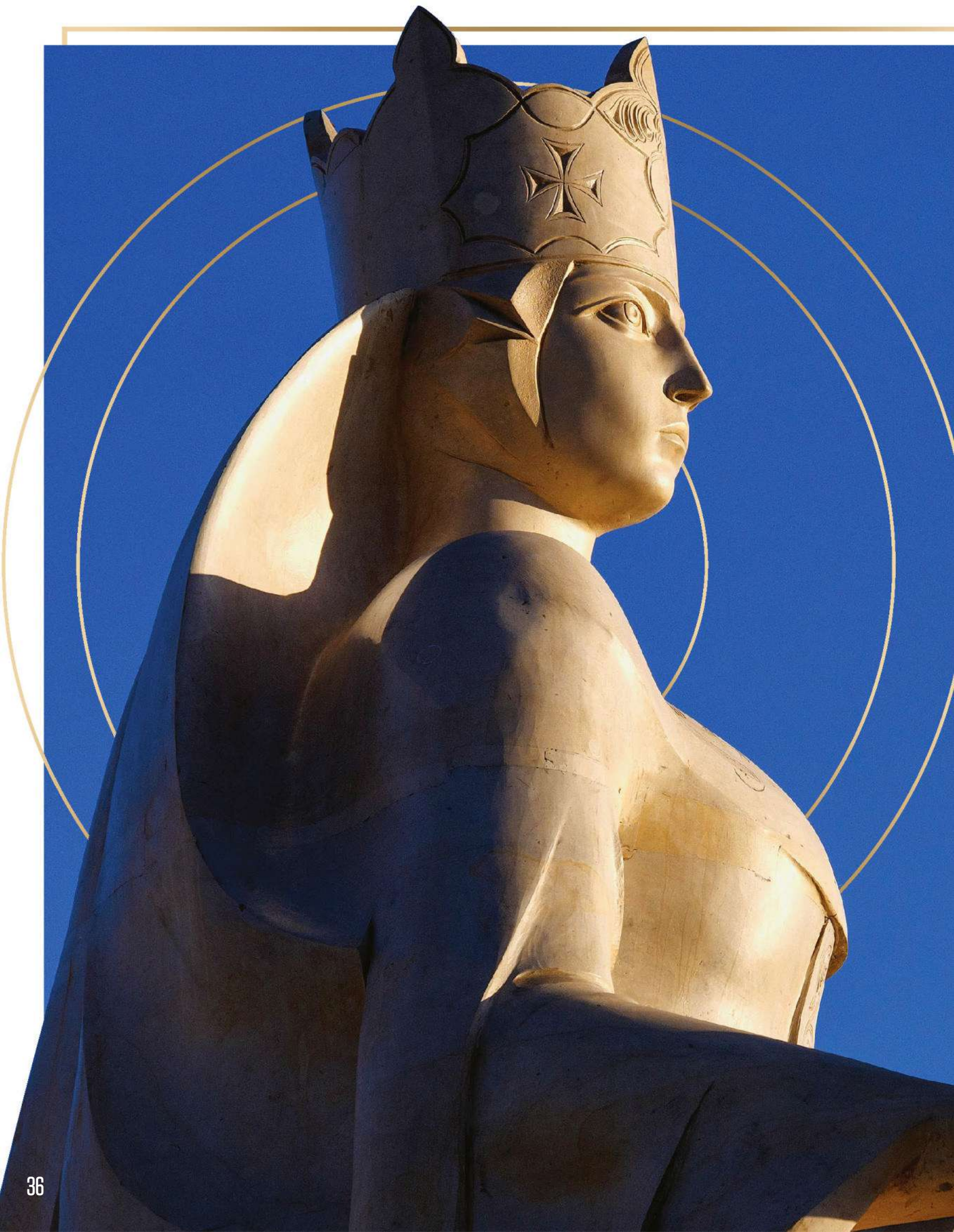
PIONEERING WOMEN

The other major change to the medical profession that took place over the course of the 19th century was that women started to become doctors. While women had long worked as healers, nurses and midwives, it was in the Victorian age that they started entering the regulated medical profession. This charge was led by three trail-blazing women – Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Sophia Jex-Blake – who all struggled to find their place in a male-dominated field. Jex-Blake was described by writer Oliva Campbell as "big and brash, a stout, feisty educational reformer with large eyes and an even larger personality." Garrett Anderson was similarly persistent, but also eloquent, educated and polite.

All three women had to resort to crafty means to achieve their medical qualifications. While British, Blackwell could only attend medical school in the United States. Garrett Anderson only qualified via a loophole in the admissions policy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. And Jex-Blake's attempt to sit an anatomy exam in Edinburgh was met with a literal riot. These women encountered staunch resistance from both the public and the medical profession. There was opposition to their medical education and training (and particularly to the prospect of mixed-sex classes), to them taking up public appointments, and becoming members of professional societies. Although Jex-Blake and her peers enrolled at the University of Edinburgh, they were later denied the right to graduate. The British Medical Association did not accept women until 1892 (barring an oversight that led to Garrett Anderson's admission), and in 1895 both the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians of London voted against admitting women – decisions that were not overturned until 1908.

However, while women in general, and these three heroines in particular, faced many obstacles, ultimately their collective efforts proved successful. In 1876, legislation authorised universities to award medical degrees to women, but did not force them to. A year later, the King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland – then one of Britain's 19 medical licensing bodies – opened its final examinations to women. By 1892, there were 135 female physicians on the medical register. They found work in hospitals and dispensaries for women and children across the British Empire. The number of female doctors grew more rapidly after 1900. In 1910, the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of Surgeons of England each elected their first women, followed by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1920 and the Royal College of Physicians in 1934.

Ultimately, the story about Liston is probably entirely fictional. Medicine in the early 19th century was never as barbarous or cruel as such tales make it out to be. However, it was very different to the medicine we know and use today. Over the course of Queen Victoria's reign medical ideas, the treatments available to people and the professionals who provided care to the masses underwent a radical transformation. By the end of the century, scientists knew about germs, and surgeons were able to numb the pain of operations and prevent the infection of wounds. Doctors understood how many diseases were caused and could be avoided, and both men and women practiced medicine in hospitals that were largely clean and safe. But there was still a long way to go. It would be another 40 years before chemotherapies for cancer were first developed and before antibiotics were invented and widely used. And while women now make up more than half of doctors in the United Kingdom, women in medicine still face discrimination and opposition. Medicine is constantly evolving, and we have little idea what changes are yet to come.



Tamar the Great

Georgia's Golden Queen

How the legendary monarch advanced the gilded age of medieval Georgia

Written by Emily Staniforth

From the 11th to the 13th century, Georgia experienced a Golden Age: a period of time where Georgian power was at its highest and art and culture flourished. As the territories of the state were expanded, one woman stood at the country's head. Queen Tamar (c.1160 - c.1213) was the most notable monarch of this era as she led Georgia's transformation during the peak of its strength and influence. This much-loved queen has since remained a symbol of Georgian pride in the centuries following her death.

A queen is born

Tamar's route to the throne was unusual, particularly as a woman in the Middle Ages. Though her exact date of birth is unknown, historians believe she was born sometime between 1160 and 1165, the daughter of King George III and his wife Queen Burdukhan. A member of the prestigious Bagrationi Dynasty, George had faced opposition to his leadership from factions who claimed his nephew was, in fact, the rightful ruler of Georgia. After successfully quashing the revolutionary forces, George decided he needed to make his rule and

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King or Queen?

Why is Tamar sometimes referred to as a Georgian king?

Many sources refer to Tamar as a king of Georgia rather than a queen. While this might seem confusing, it is simply due to the fact that in the Georgian language there was no word for a queen regnant. Tamar was thus described as a 'mepe' (king) rather than a 'dedopali' (queen), which was the title given to the queen consorts of the kings who came before her. As Tamar was the sole ruler, the title of 'mepe' is often translated literally and so she becomes King Tamar.

Tamar was not the first female ruler to be given the title of king. In Ancient Egypt, Hatshepsut was technically a king as she assumed the male roles that came with the title of pharaoh. Polish monarch Jadwiga was crowned as 'king' in 1384 in an effort to emphasise her sole authority over her domain. In the early 16th century, Queen Mary became the ruler of Hungary and Croatia, but was technically crowned as a 'king'. It is possible that, like these other examples of female 'kingship', by ruling as King Tamar the Georgian monarch could more firmly establish her position as head of state.

succession as secure as possible, especially since he did not have any sons who would be the heirs to the throne. With Tamar being the eldest of his daughters, he made the decision to declare her as his successor. However, to ensure Tamar was established as a figure of authority and to try and diminish any threat of uprising against her, George crowned his daughter as his co-ruler in 1178 in front of an audience of the Georgian royalty, nobility and clergy. The aim was to educate and train Tamar as a monarch while giving her the prestige and authority that came with being a ruler in name at her father's side. Tamar and her father ruled side by side for six years before his death in 1184. It was then that George's plan was put to the test.

The beginning of Tamar's rule was tumultuous to say the least. According to historian Filippo Donvito: "Very few thought she would survive her first year as queen." Despite having been declared monarch by her father in 1178, the Georgian aristocracy insisted that Tamar be recrowned after George's death. She had a few influential allies at the Georgian court, with her aunt Rusudan (George's sister) being particularly important to securing her queenship. Rusudan herself was a skilled politician and a dominant presence at court, and as the widow of a sultan and the wife of a shah, she was experienced in handling herself as a woman in a position of power. For Tamar, her support was invaluable. However, Tamar needed more than just her powerful aunt and a few members of the aristocracy to consolidate her throne. Ideally, she needed to keep the clergy of the Georgian Orthodox Church on side, which meant gaining the approval of their head, the Catholicos Patriarch Mikel Mirianisdze.

Mirianisdze understood that as a young, female ruler, Queen Tamar needed his patronage to succeed in her role. He therefore made a deal with her: he would support her as monarch if she made him a chancellor. Tamar agreed in an attempt to regain the influence she had lost with the death of her father. However, Mirianisdze was a powerful man and Tamar soon realised that it would be better to reduce his influence rather than expand it. Convening a synod of the clergy in 1185, Tamar hoped to oust him. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in limiting his power as the synod only decided to do away with a few of the less important bishops who also opposed Tamar's rule. Realising she could not resist the demands of the aristocracy without facing their wrath, Tamar submitted to being recrowned. However, their next demand pushed the queen too far. Requesting that the nobles make up a political body that could enact laws and appoint officials, they effectively wanted to reduce Tamar's authority to such an extent that she became merely an ornamental figurehead of an aristocratic government with no real power or influence. Tamar stood her ground and ordered the arrest of Qutlu Arslan, a leading aristocrat, and as a result the nobility acquiesced after seeing that Tamar would not be cowed. She had eventually established herself as a capable and secure queen, and had displayed to her subjects that she possessed the strength with which to lead the nation.

Finding a consort

Tamar's next challenge lay in her quest to find herself a suitable consort: a husband who would prove to be an asset to her queenship, and Georgia as a whole, while avoiding ambitious men who wished to use her to enhance their own status. Yuri Andreyevich Bogolyubsky, a Rus prince who had been exiled from his kingdom of Novgorod after his father was murdered in a coup, was suggested by the nobility. This choice was also championed by Mirianisdze and Tamar's much-respected aunt Rusudan, giving the queen little choice but to accept Bogolyubsky as her husband and consort. Bogolyubsky seems to have been a popular choice among the nobility and clergy alike because not only did he ascribe to a Christian

RIGHT The poet Shota Rustaveli presents his work to Queen Tamar

BELOW Mural in the Church of Dormition, Vardzia, showing Tamar alongside her father George III

> "Unfortunately for Tamar, her troublesome first husband proved to be a thorn in her side"

Orthodox faith, but also because choosing a foreigner rather than a Georgian avoided creating tension between the different Georgian factions, who all had their own candidates in mind.

After marrying in 1185, he showcased his ability as a military commander when he successfully led Georgian forces in neighbouring Armenia. However, his loathsome personality and behaviour proved to be difficult for Tamar to accept. The Rus prince proved to be a disastrous match for the driven queen, with her accusing him of being drunk most of the time. She also allegedly accused him of sodomy, while he, according to Donvito, accused Tamar of being infertile. It was clear that the marriage was not working, and so, much to Tamar's relief, the union was annulled in 1187. Bogolyubsky was exiled to Constantinople and Tamar was free to find a more suitable husband.

Around the time of her divorce, Mirianisdze died. These events marked a major turning point in Tamar's reign as she was finally more able to make her own decisions. She installed a new chancellor of her own choosing to replace Mirianisdze and also gave political positions to her allies at court. She subsequently found a new husband in David Soslan, an Ossetian prince. Ossetia was located near Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains, and although choosing another husband from outside of Georgia may have seemed like an odd choice, Soslan had actually been brought up at the Georgian court at Tbilisi. The pair would likely have been aware of each other for most of their lives, and seemingly this provided a good foundation for their marriage. Furthermore, Soslan was a skilled military leader whose allegiance and devotion would prove to be advantageous for Tamar and her ambitious plans to expand the Georgian realm. Their more equal and loving partnership saw the birth of two children, son George and daughter Rusudan, putting to bed the rumours of infertility started by Tamar's first husband.

Tamar at war

Unfortunately for Tamar, the troublesome Bogolyubsky proved to be a thorn in her side as he raised rebel forces to oust the queen. The revolutionary forces, consisting of Bogolyubsky and some of his Georgian

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supporters, convened in 1191 in an attempt to take Georgia by force. However, Tamar's intelligence network kept her abreast of the rebels' plans and the armies were easily vanquished by her own capable army. The irksome Bogolyubsky was sent back to Constantinople, while his rebel allies were looked upon with mercy by Tamar, who could easily have had them executed. The disgraced noble participants of the uprising were dispossessed of their political titles and replaced with other men who had proven their allegiance to Tamar and her administration.

With Soslan at her side and Bogolyubsky's revolutionary efforts quashed, Tamar embarked on her own personal crusade to conquer lands around Georgia, expand her borders and defend her nation from foreign enemies. Orthodox Georgia was geographically somewhat enclosed by Muslim powers by 1192, so Tamar set about ensuring that her country was protected from encroaching outside influence and possible invasion. She had previously made contact with Saladin, whose forces had captured Jerusalem in 1187, and had negotiated a deal that ensured peace between the two leaders.

However, not all threats could be extinguished with peace deals. Muslim forces had been attempting to make inroads into Georgia for years, but none had been very successful. To guarantee that Georgia would not be invaded on a larger scale, Tamar decided to strike back,

ABOVE-LEFT
A portrait of Queen Tamar dating to the 19th century

ABOVE-RIGHT
The cave city of Vardzia as it looks today

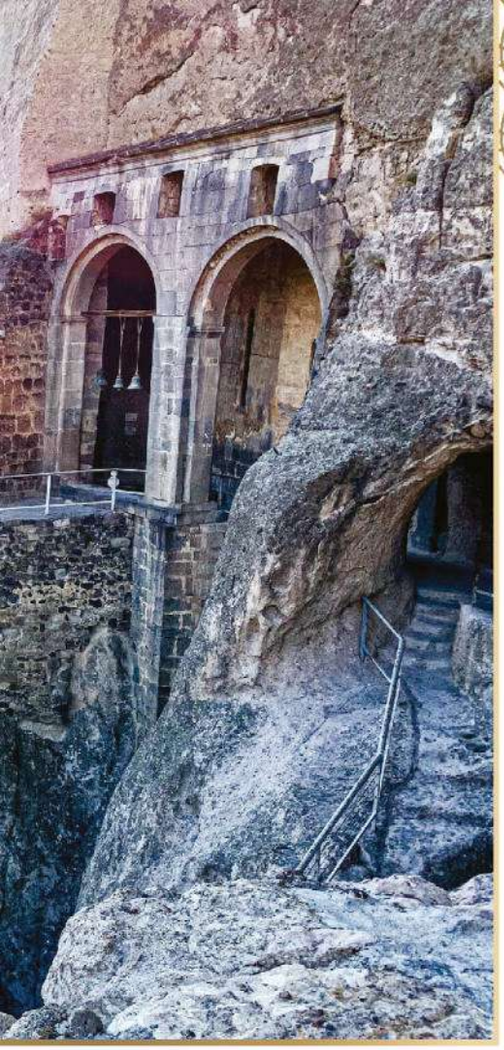
BELOW A 19th century depiction of Saint Tamar

"Tamar's queenship oversaw a cultural renaissance in Georgia"

and in 1193 an army headed by Soslan marched into Arran (now modern-day Azerbaijan) as a show of force against Georgia's troublesome neighbour. This marked the start of a series of campaigns that would see Georgian conquest across most of the Caucasus (the area in Eastern Europe between the Caspian and the Black Seas), into modern-day Iran, while all the time defending Georgia's own borders from the powerful Muslim forces that tried to take their territory. As military commander and Tamar's consort, Soslan played a vital role in many of Georgia's expansion efforts until his death in around 1207. Tamar herself did not go into battle, though her reforms within the army and strategic direction ensured Georgian forces were, more often than not, undefeatable. Despite not heading up the army herself, there is some suggestion that Tamar may have travelled with her army around Eastern Europe and the Middle East, acting as a figurehead for her men.

Tamar not only had plans for her own realm, but she was also determined to help expand the influence of her family in other parts of the world. Her younger sister Rusudan had found a matrimonial match in the son of the Byzantine Emperor Andronikos I. In 1185, Andronikos was murdered in Constantinople and his family were all killed except for his two grandsons: the children of Rusudan. The boys, Alexios and David, were sent to Georgia where their aunt Tamar provided them with sanctuary at her court.

By around 1204, the Byzantine Empire had begun to collapse and so Tamar exploited the opportunity and provided her now-adult nephews with forces to take back the land that she believed rightfully belonged to them. Successful in their endeavours, Alexios and David first took the port of Trebizond (in present-day Turkey) and established it as their centre. Alexios declared himself emperor and the brothers set about expanding their influence along the coast of the Black Sea. Though Tamar did not directly control the new Trebizond Empire, the close familial link between her nephews' lands and Georgia remained strong, expanding Tamar's sphere of influence even further across Europe and the Middle East.



A Georgian renaissance

Alongside her political ambitions, and despite the violence and political turmoil of her reign, Tamar's queenship oversaw a cultural renaissance in Georgia. As an intelligent woman herself, Tamar acted as a patron for the arts and poetry in particular flourished, with great Georgian writers like Shota Rustaveli, Ioane Shavteli and Chakhrukhadze taking literary inspiration from their golden queen and her warrior husband.

Architecture proved to be a particular passion of Tamar's as she facilitated the building of several churches across Georgia. One of her especially impressive projects can still be seen today in the monastery at Vardzia, which was carved into Mount Erusheti. Tamar's vision was to create an underground city that would provide a sanctuary for her people in times of turbulence and war. The cave town of Vardzia could house 50,000 people and existed on 13 levels within the mountain itself. The underground labyrinth served as a haven for the Georgian people, but also possibly for Tamar herself when she accompanied her army as they fought the Seljuk Turks. It is said that Tamar may have used the site at Vardzia to pray for her husband's victory in battle.

Tamar's desire to provide for her people, seen in the construction of the Vardzia fortress, permeated her reign. Under her queenship, Georgia prospered economically and wealth was shared between all. Tamar also proved to be an empathetic leader as she supposedly repealed harsh policies that allowed the use of torture and execution.

Death and legacy

It is believed that Tamar died some time around 1213 and her crown passed to her son, who became King George IV. With her death, Georgia's Golden Age also came to an end as George proved to be a less capable monarch than his mother and the kings before her. Vanquishing threats from the Mongols pre-occupied Georgia after Tamar's demise and the strong kingdom she had created subsided. However, her legacy lived on in the memory of the Georgian people and several centuries later she was canonised by the Georgian Orthodox Church. Saint Tamar continues to stand in Georgia as a symbol of hope for the return of the nation's medieval prosperity.

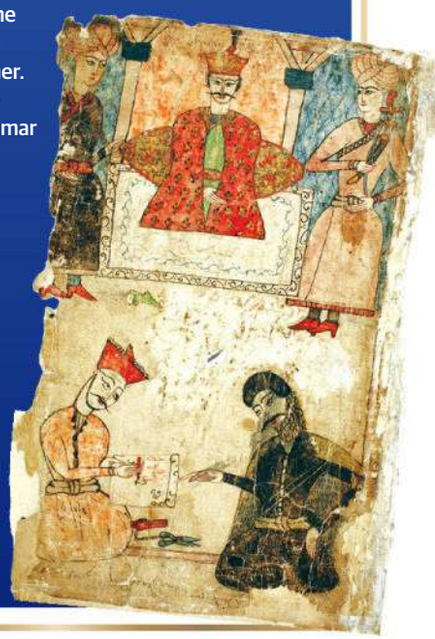
While Tamar's place of burial remains undiscovered, there are several theories as to where she lies. Some believe that her remains are buried in the Gelati Monastery, while others believe that her ashes were transported to Jerusalem after her death. However, one myth states that, much like England's King Arthur, Queen Tamar lies asleep in a cave in the Caucasus Mountains, waiting for the time when she will awaken and bring forth a new Golden Age for Georgia.

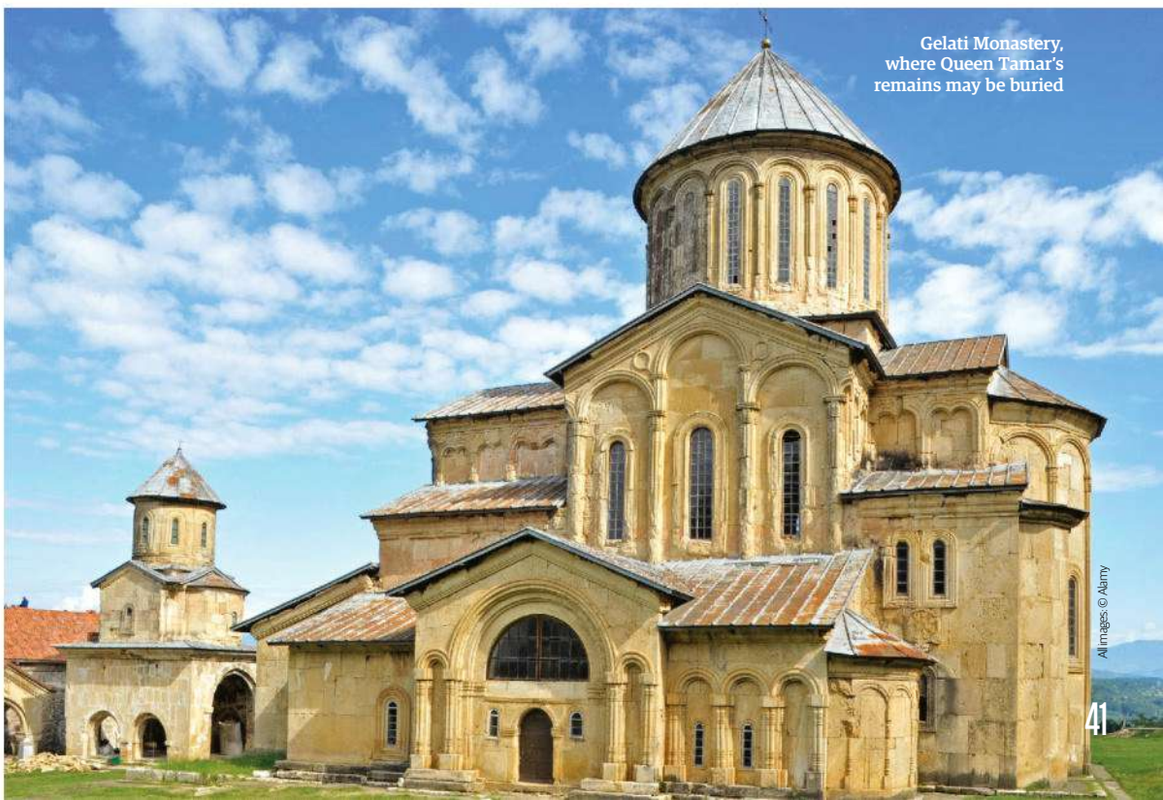
The Knight in the Panther's Skin

The epic poem that idolised Queen Tamar

One of the most famous works of poetry associated with Queen Tamar was written by the acclaimed Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli. *The Knight in the Panther's Skin* was possibly commissioned by Tamar, and tells the story of two friends, Avtandil and Tariel, who set out on a quest to find their much-beloved Nestan-Darejan. While the poem is fictional and set outside of Georgia, the tale is allegorical and is a thinly veiled ode to Tamar: in the poem Nestan-Darejan is said to represent the Georgian queen. Rustaveli also uses the poem to praise Tamar's second husband, David Soslan, highlighting how pleased the Georgian people were with the queen's choice of partner. Rustaveli himself may have been personally close to Tamar as there are some sources that suggest he served as a treasurer in her court.

The poem has been translated into several languages since the late 12th or early 13th century in which it was written. It's considered by many to be the finest Georgian epic, and it continues to serve as the embodiment of the cultural renaissance that occurred in Georgia under Tamar's rule.





Gelati Monastery, where Queen Tamar's remains may be buried

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FLYING ABOVE THE STORM

The remarkable story of the WWII glider pilots

Interview by Jonathan Gordon

Among the many brave individuals who played their part in leading the Allies to victory in World War II, one undersung but incredibly bold group deserve some attention – the glider pilots and those who journeyed with them. Flying without engines or defences, these remarkable aviators took troops on one-way trips to the heart of the battle. We spoke with Scott McGaugh, author of the new book *Brotherhood of the Flying Coffin* that chronicles some of the stories of those involved in these daring missions.

What roles did gliders play in WWII?

Gliders led major World War II invasions across Europe, ahead of the Allied ground troops. At Normandy, in southern France, into Holland (*A Bridge Too Far*) and across the Rhine into Germany. The volunteer glider pilots were often towed five to ten miles [8-16km] behind the frontlines on one-way missions, to deliver infantry, vehicles, artillery, ammunition, fuel, explosives, communications and medical personnel, and other equipment – often in support of the paratroopers who had landed a few hours earlier.

Together, the airborne troops with glider support prevented enemy reserves from moving up to the front lines, blocked key enemy supply routes and engaged in vicious ground combat until the infantry coming ashore or crossing a river linked up with them. It was invasion by attacking from the front and the rear. The glider pilots often engaged in combat, assisted medics on the ground and later guarded prisoners while on their way back to their air bases. Some glider pilots flew four of these deadly missions.

In what circumstances would a glider be preferable to a different sort of aircraft?

The battlefield dictated the need for gliders during invasions. There were no airports nearby for the gliders, the glider infantry they were carrying or the paratroopers. Certainly not within fighting range of the Allied invasion troops coming ashore or crossing a river. As a result, invasion planners had to identify and assign farm fields and pastures as landing zones for the gliders and drop zones for the paratroopers as close to the frontline as possible.

It was an extremely dangerous proposition. These zones were as obvious to the Germans as they were to the Allies when contemplating a landing at Normandy and elsewhere. In almost every case, the Germans had years to prepare dastardly defences against the glider pilots.

Unfortunately, advance Allied 'intelligence' could be faulty as well. Pre-invasion photographs of Normandy's hedgerow

EXPERT BIO

SCOTT MCGAUGH

Scott McGaugh is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of nonfiction military thrillers about battlefield heroes. His current book, *Brotherhood of the Flying Coffin*, is based on WWII volunteer glider pilots' largely unknown personal accounts of their one-way missions into enemy territory.

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"The courage of glider pilots and their C-47 tow plane aircrews was extraordinary"

LEFT Paratroopers prepare their glider with messages in chalk, June 1944

country were taken at midday, failing to show the shadows and thus the true height of the hedgerows. As a result, many glider pilots had to fly through the hedgerows so they could land in a small field.

At what altitudes would gliders fly and how did this compare to other wartime aircraft?

The courage of glider pilots and their C-47 tow plane aircrews was extraordinary. Over Normandy, for example, the C-47s towed their glider pilots at an altitude of about 1,000ft [305m] across miles of enemy territory, well within range of its artillery. Then, depending upon the circumstances, the tow planes would slow to about 100mph [160kp/h], drop to 500ft or 600ft [150-180m] and release the gliders. The glider pilots' sole priority was to get on the ground as quickly as possible and unload personnel or cargo without loss. Bombers, on the other hand, generally flew missions between 20,000ft and 30,000ft [6,000-9,000m]. The glider pilots' low-altitude missions were so dangerous that a glider pilot earned an Air Medal (the equivalent of a Bronze Star) on every mission. It took five missions for bomber air crews to earn the same, and 10 missions for fighter pilots.

BELOW-LEFT A leather jacket worn by a US WWII glider pilot

BELOW-MIDDLE Infantry aid wounded comrades after a glider crash in France

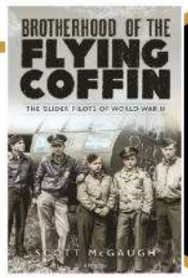
BELOW-RIGHT A crew prepares their glider for Operation Market Garden, September 1944

How dangerous was it for the glider pilots and the infantry they carried?

Glider pilots and the infantry they carried were defenceless on their approach to their landing zone. They flew in reinforced fabric-covered aircraft with no defensive guns. Evasive action usually was impossible. Bullets passing through the fabric fuselage sounded like popcorn popping. Razor-edged shrapnel from artillery shells exploding nearby ripped through the fabric, glider infantry and glider pilots. Further, the glider pilots and their glider infantry almost always were immediately surrounded when they landed. Yet they had to exit the glider immediately for fear it would catch fire.

Were all glider missions one-way missions?

Yes. Glider pilots often flew through intense enemy fire for miles across enemy territory to reach their landing zone. When they were released from their tow planes at a low altitude, they had only a minute or two to land while avoiding one another in the air and gliders already on the ground as they skidded to a stop.



Brotherhood of the Flying Coffin by Scott McGaugh is available now from Osprey Publishing

If released at higher altitudes due to aircraft congestion, they endured even more enemy fire in a protracted descent before landing. Some landing zones had been flooded by the enemy, some held hidden land mines and others were studded with implanted vertical tree trunks (called 'Rommel's Asparagus') that could crush glider wings and cockpits.

Gliders were often shredded by shrapnel and their reinforced fabric skin proved flammable. Others crashed into trees and other obstacles. Nearly all the gliders were so badly damaged from artillery shells, small arms fire, collisions and crash landings that they were no longer airworthy for a second mission.

Could you give us an example of how gliders contributed to a famous battle in WWII?

The gliders and airborne personnel significantly contributed to the Allies' success in Normandy, despite a 16 percent casualty rate for the glider pilots and a 40 percent casualty rate for the paratroopers. They paid a horrendous price to support the troops coming ashore by attacking the enemy from the rear – a strategy called 'vertical envelopment'. As a result, Allied infantry on Omaha Beach that did not have paratrooper and glider support suffered a 7 percent casualty rate, while those on Utah Beach with airborne support suffered only a 1 percent casualty rate. Normandy proved the value of gliders, glider infantry and paratroopers, all of whom would play major roles in future assaults – and suffer mightily. In the final glider mission of the war, the last squadron of 15 glider pilots saw three killed, 11 taken prisoner and only one glider pilot able to return to base.

In your research into the lives of glider pilots, what has stood out to you?

I was constantly amazed at how candidly glider pilots shared their experiences for the record, sometimes later in life. And shocked at how most somehow put war's horrors behind them when they returned home to their families...

Glider pilot Richard Fort describes landing: "Our right wing hits the wing of another glider and is gone – sounds perhaps like an implosion of a giant wooden match box – then the outer third of the left wing is gone and the nose plows up dirt, buckles, then breaks. Dust, dirt, grapes, vines, debris all pile in through the broken lower half of the cockpit as we grind to a stop. I'm still gripping the stick."

Glider pilot Harry Loftis reflects: "I keep getting flashbacks of things that happened... I had high school friends, college friends, frat brothers, but I never put them close to the category that I do of those glider pilots... courage that you would never believe."

A doctor treating a glider infantryman: "All men who go to war die, son. Anyone who comes back, comes back cheated."

What do you hope people take away from reading your book Brotherhood Of The Flying Coffin?

I've often reflected on how I would've felt if my son had volunteered to fly a glider (not yet invented at the start of the war) into enemy territory. These young men volunteered for impossible missions with courage that would make every parent proud. I hope readers of the book will wish that they somehow could have these heroic glider pilots over for dinner. I certainly do.

REBEL GREEK PHILOSOPHERS

These intriguing, eccentric and bizarre thinkers challenged what the ancient world thought it knew

Written by Ben Gazur

In the 5th century BCE a group of learned men, called Sophists, could be found going from city to city offering to teach wisdom, rhetoric and almost any other branch of knowledge in return for fees. Not everyone was happy with the new learning these philosophers brought with them.

In the comic poet Aristophanes' play *The Clouds* the Sophists, and the philosopher Socrates, are pilloried for the new-fangled education they are expounding in Athens. Socrates and his companions occupy a school called the Thinkery where they examine why gnats buzz (they fart, apparently) and other areas of research. Most importantly, they know how to use philosophy to make a bad argument sound good and a good argument sound bad. A father who sends his son to learn this ability becomes so enraged by the results that he burns the Thinkery to the ground.

This conservative reaction to philosophy would be repeatedly seen as waves of new philosophies developed that bucked the trend of traditional Greek thinking. New ways of thinking led to new ways of living. Here are some of the philosophers who rebelled against the norm.

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EPICURUS

EPICURUS

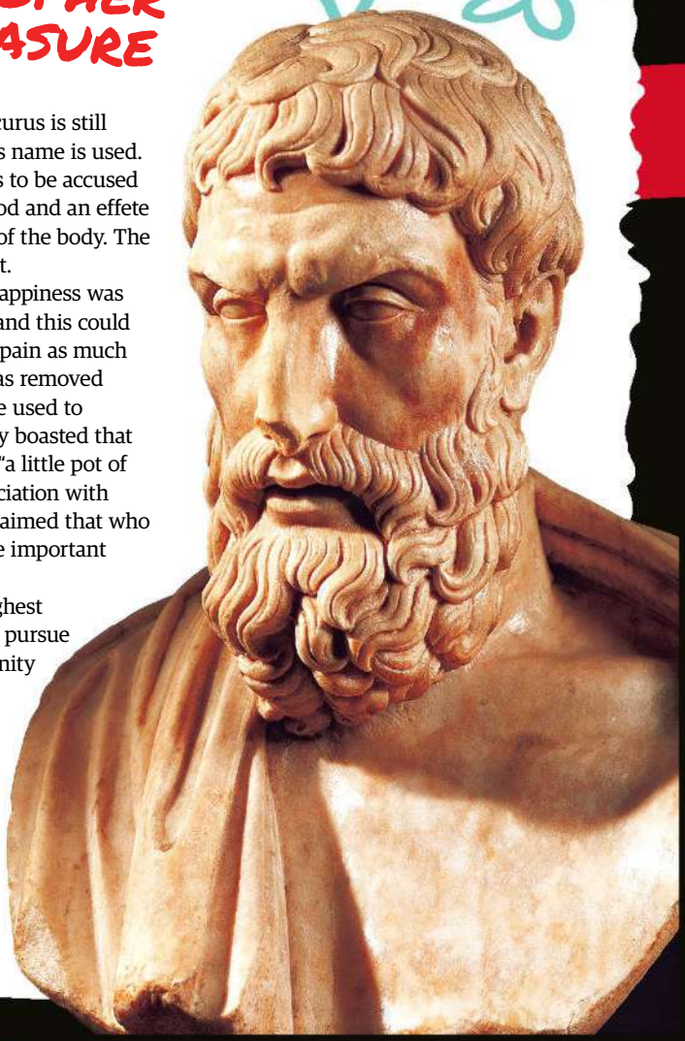
PHILOSOPHER OF PLEASURE

341-270 BCE

The reaction against Epicurus is still seen today in the way his name is used. To be called an epicure is to be accused of obsession with fine food and an effete interest in the pleasures of the body. The reality was quite different.

Epicurus taught that happiness was the goal of the good life and this could be achieved by reducing pain as much as possible. Once pain was removed simple pleasures could be used to enhance life. He famously boasted that he could have a feast on "a little pot of cheese." Despite his association with grand consumption he claimed that who one dined with was more important than what one dined on.

Friendship was the highest pleasure for Epicurus. To pursue this he created a community called The Garden where philosophically minded friends could live together in serene isolation. At a time when women and slaves were barely viewed as fully human The Garden welcomed both to join it.



PROTAGORAS

PROTAGORAS

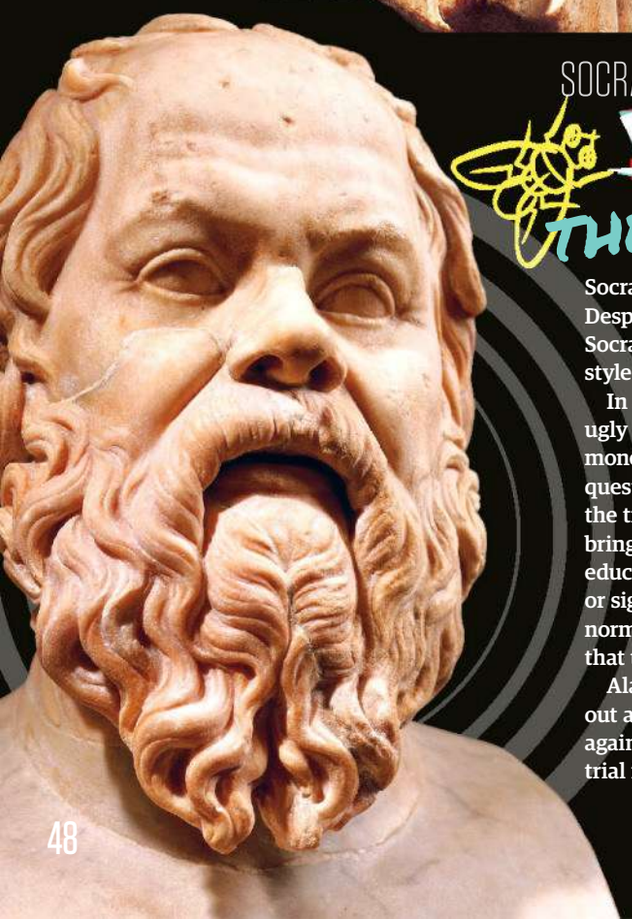
THE FATHER OF RELATIVISM

490-420 BCE

What is truth? That's a question that runs through Western philosophy. Protagoras of Abdera was not the first to tackle this conundrum but his answers were shocking to many thinkers of his day, and even today. In his book called *Truth* he states: "Man is the measure of all things." Plato takes this to mean that there is no objective truth at all. What seems true to you is true to you, and what is true to someone else is true to them. Such a bold relativistic view would make dialogue between people impossible if we cannot even agree on basic facts.

What Protagoras probably meant, however, is that we must take into account a person's lived experiences and foundational beliefs when assessing statements. This acknowledgment of individual viewpoints makes Protagoras a thoroughly modern thinker.

He was also one of the first open agnostics in history. He wrote: "About the gods I am able to know neither that they exist nor that they do not exist nor of what kind they are in form."



SOCRATES

SOCRATES

THE GADFLY OF ATHENS

470-399 BCE

Socrates is regarded by many as the father of Western philosophy. Despite never writing down any of his philosophy we feel we know Socrates through the texts of his pupils Plato and Xenophon. It is the style of his life – and death – that have been most influential.

In a culture that prized physical beauty Socrates was a notably ugly man. He dressed shabbily and unlike the Sophists never took money for teaching. He could be found in the marketplace asking questions to everyone about everything, in the hope of discovering the true form of wisdom and virtue. This Socratic method of bringing out the truth by questioning has been influential in education ever since. Socrates claimed that he was guided by a voice or sign that only he could sense. By not limiting himself to the social norms of his day Socrates hoped to expose the limitations in others that they did not even know they had.

Alas, the people of Athens wearied of having their flaws pointed out and were angered by several of Socrates' students turning against the Athenian democracy. He was forced to kill himself after a trial in which he was charged with impiety.

GORGIAS

GORGIAS

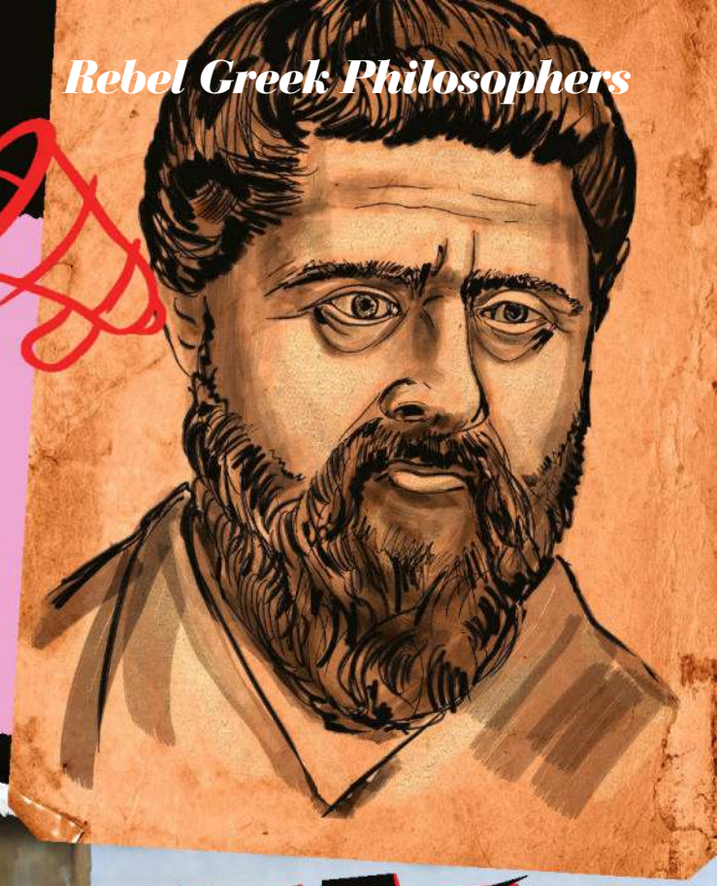
MISEDUCATOR OF GREECE

483-375 BCE

Gorgias of Leontini exemplified all of people's fears about what Sophists would do to the young. As a teacher of rhetoric he showed how any argument can be made persuasive. The presence of Gorgias looms over many of Plato's dialogues as many of the people Socrates is shown in discussion with have been taught (or as Plato would see it, mis-taught) by Gorgias.

Gorgias is sometimes called 'the Nihilist' because of the extremely unorthodox views he at times expounded.

One of his works is a speech defending Helen of Troy when most Greeks viewed her as a seductive villain who sparked the bloody Trojan War. His most famous piece is titled *On not-being* in which he defends the idea that nothing at all exists, or if it exists we cannot know anything, or if we do know something about existence we cannot express our knowledge. At a time when the search for knowledge occupied many philosophers, Gorgias undermined the entire purpose of philosophy.



DIOGENES

DIOGENES

5TH CENTURY – 323 BCE

THE DOGGED PHILOSOPHER

Of all the ancient philosophers none lived a more radical life than Diogenes of Sinope. He dedicated his every moment to showing up the pretensions of those around him. Diogenes was often compared to a dog because of his wild ways and biting sayings. It is from the Greek word for dog that the Cynic philosophers who followed Diogenes got their name.

Diogenes famously went without all luxuries to show just how little a human needs to live. He lived rough on the streets of Athens inside a large tub. When he realised he could drink water from his hands he threw away his bowl. When Alexander the Great stood over Diogenes and asked if he wanted anything, the philosopher only asked that the king move a little to the side as he was blocking the sun.

Many of the antics ascribed to Diogenes were designed to shock people out of their assumptions about how they had to live. Eating in public was taboo but he defended himself when seen doing so by explaining that he was outside when he was hungry. When seen masturbating in the marketplace he commented: "If only it were so easy to soothe hunger by rubbing an empty belly."

Diogenes might have been a nightmare neighbour but as a philosopher he made quite the impression.

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HYPATIA

HYPATIA

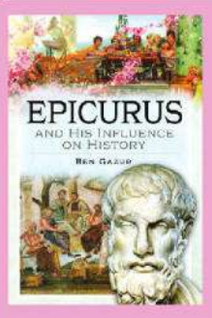
360-415 CE

By the 5th century CE Christianity was a dominant force in the Roman world, and many pagan philosophers and teachers were finding it harder to maintain their faith and public positions. But in Egyptian Alexandria there was still a rich heritage of pagan thought and among the leading public intellectuals was Hypatia.

Hypatia was highly educated in mathematics and philosophy by her father and her lectures were attended by some of the most important and influential people in Alexandria. She taught the future bishop Synesius of Cyrene and Orestes, the prefect of the city, was a close personal friend. Her paganism, along with her gender, made her a target for popular scandal. Christian writers accused her of using her "satanic wiles" to cause conflicts between Christians in the city.

While riding through the streets Hypatia was dragged from her carriage by Christians loyal to bishop Cyril. She was taken to a church, stripped naked and then flayed alive with either oyster shells or bits of broken pots. Hypatia's body was then torn apart and paraded through the streets. Cyril was made a saint.

MARTYR OF PHILOSOPHY



EPICURUS AND HIS INFLUENCE ON HISTORY by Ben Gazur is available from 30 April 2023, published by Pen and Sword Books

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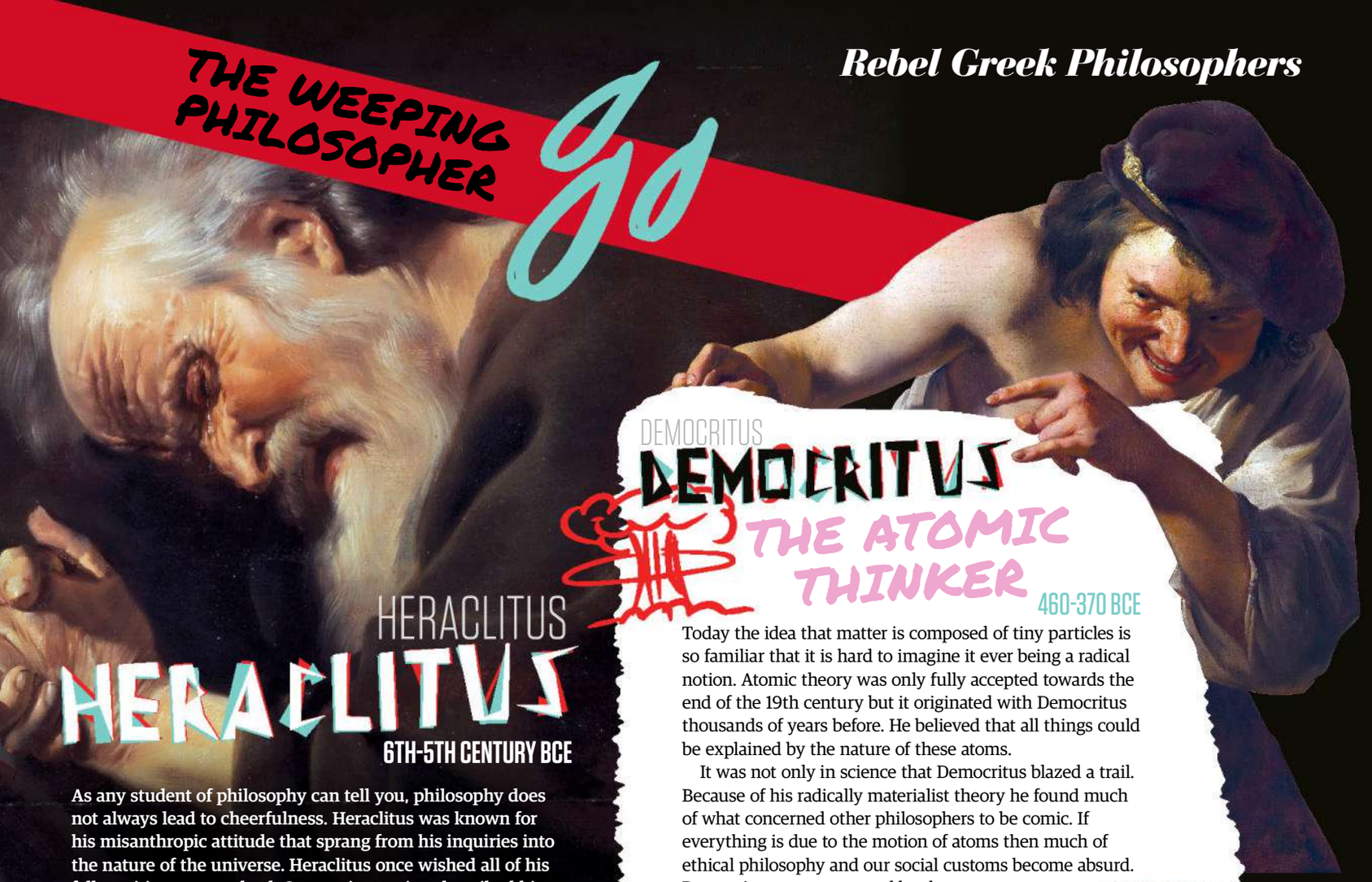
THE WEEPING PHILOSOPHER



HERACLITUS

HERACLITUS

6TH-5TH CENTURY BCE

As any student of philosophy can tell you, philosophy does not always lead to cheerfulness. Heraclitus was known for his misanthropic attitude that sprang from his inquiries into the nature of the universe. Heraclitus once wished all of his fellow citizens were dead. One ancient writer described him as a reviler of the mob and a cuckoo in the city of Ephesus. Heraclitus rejected many of the most treasured aspects of Greek culture; he went so far as to wish that the poet Homer had been beaten. The fact that Heraclitus saw all of his contemporaries acting against what he thought was reasonable seems to have driven his melancholy.

Heraclitus expressed himself in short aphorisms that can be hard to understand. The obscure meanings of Heraclitus led to him being call 'the Obscure'. He was famous for sayings like "Everything flows" and "No man can step into the same river twice."

Heraclitus died by burying himself in a dung heap in hopes that the heat of the rotting manure would drive out the water collecting in his body.

DEMOCRITUS

DEMOCRITUS

THE ATOMIC THINKER

460-370 BCE

Today the idea that matter is composed of tiny particles is so familiar that it is hard to imagine it ever being a radical notion. Atomic theory was only fully accepted towards the end of the 19th century but it originated with Democritus thousands of years before. He believed that all things could be explained by the nature of these atoms.

It was not only in science that Democritus blazed a trail. Because of his radically materialist theory he found much of what concerned other philosophers to be comic. If everything is due to the motion of atoms then much of ethical philosophy and our social customs become absurd. Democritus was so amused by the behaviour of his fellow citizens as they went about their lives that he became known as 'the Laughing Philosopher'.

By putting forward the theory of a deterministic universe Democritus issued a challenge to traditional notions of free will and religion that are still much debated today.

PYTHAGORAS

PYTHAGORAS

MORE THAN TRIANGLES

570-495 BCE

Pythagoras was not just a researcher in mathematics - his theories took in everything from the order of the universe, the transmigration of souls and the right foods to eat. Were he alive today he would likely be considered a cult leader.

Followers of Pythagoras lived together in communes and followed very specific rules set out by their leader. They were not allowed to eat fish or meat, and were especially forbidden from eating beans. Abstention from animals made sense as human souls could be reincarnated into animal bodies. Much of what Pythagoreans learned was held as a closely guarded secret. One story tells how one follower, Hippasus, was put to death for revealing a mathematical secret.

For their strange way of life and secrecy the Pythagoreans were distrusted by those around them. Their commune was once attacked and Pythagoras was forced to flee. He was caught and killed by his pursuers when he refused to run through a field of beans because he could not bring himself to harm the vegetables.

HISTORY OF MICRONATIONS

From disused sea forts to outer space, the bizarre world of self-declared sovereign states explained

Written by Callum McKelvie

On 3 October 1990, East Germany was reunited with West Germany after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It might come as a surprise, then, to learn that the Republic of Molossia still claims to be at war with the defunct state. Never heard of Molossia? You wouldn't be the first. Located in Nevada (having been moved from Oregon) and made up of 6.3 acres, this military dictatorship has a currency tied to the value of cookie dough and views walruses as a form of contraband. Though it may sound like something out of a *Monty Python* sketch, Molossia is part of the wacky world of micronations, where anything is possible.

The *Collins Dictionary* defines a micronation as "an entity, typically existing only on the internet or within the private property of its members, that lays claim to sovereign status as an independent nation, but which is unrecognised by real nations." As such, micronations have been founded on land, at sea and even in outer space. Any attempt to provide an exhaustive history of these strange wannabe sovereign states would be futile, but we can highlight some of the most notable and most peculiar, from Ernest Hemingway's brothers' attempt to found a New Atlantis to the Nation of Celestial Space. So come with us on a whistle-stop tour through the history and magical realms of micronations.

Origin of micronations

The first recorded micronation was the kingdom of Lundy, founded on the island of the same name just off the North Devonshire coast by Martin Coles Harman in 1925. Harman ▶

"This military dictatorship has a currency tied to the value of cookie dough and views walruses as a form of contraband"

SEALAND
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minted Lundy coins and even proclaimed himself king, however he stopped short of declaring independence – which raises the question of whether it can be considered a 'true' micronation or not. Additionally, there are examples of independent sovereign states founded earlier, many which may or may not qualify. As interest in micronations developed throughout the 20th century, these forgotten 'countries' once again gained attention.

One of these was the Islands of Refreshment, founded on 4 February 1811 by four Massachusetts whalers, led by Jonathan Lambert. Despite proclaiming sovereignty, according to Harry Hobbs and George Williams in *Micronations and the Search for Sovereignty*, Lambert was dismissed as "the Toy King on his desert island." When two of the men died, Lambert and his last remaining companion were happy to give up the island. It was then controlled by the British, who wanted to stop the French using it as a base to free Napoleon and also to prevent the Americans "using it as a staging ground for Naval Cruisers."

Kingdom of Redonda

Another micronation, purportedly founded around the mid-19th century, only came to light during the early years of the next. In 1901, British science fiction author MP Shiel published *The Purple Cloud*, considered his best work. But how many of Shiel's readers were aware that, as a 15-year-old boy, he had been declared by his father to be the ruler of the Kingdom of Redonda? *The Spectator*

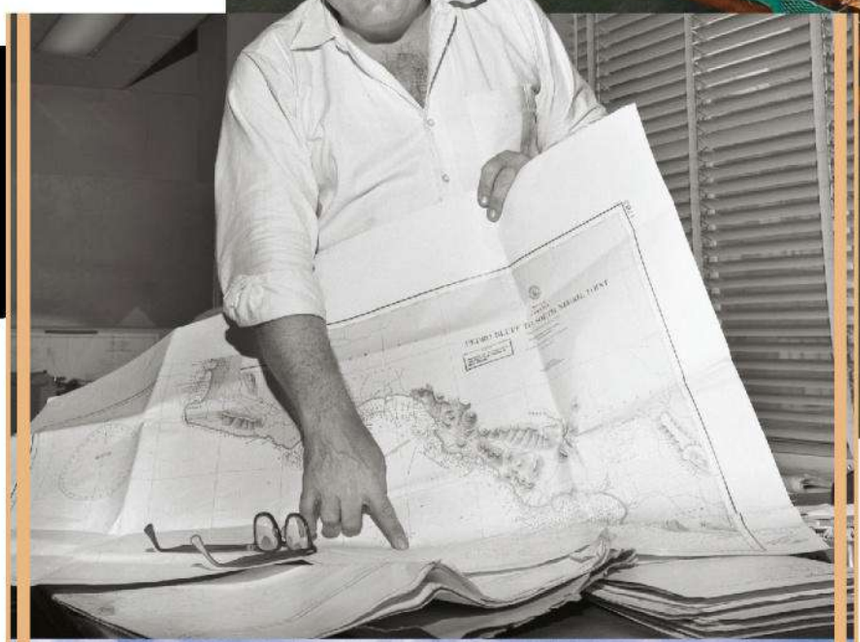
"Bates discovered to his horror that his son had been taken prisoner and Sealand was in the hands of the invaders"

reported that Shiel senior harboured the belief that he and his family were the descendents of Irish kings and therefore viewed Redonda, located off the coast of Montserrat, as recompense for his lost territory. Given the story was said to have been first recounted in a pamphlet advertising reprints of Shiel junior's literary works, some have wondered whether the story is real at all or a mere publicity stunt. Either way, it caught on and Shiel would eventually make the eccentric poet John Gawsworth his heir.

Gawsworth was known for his habit of handing out titles in return for libations and is said to have sold the title of king numerous times, meaning that upon his death in 1970 a variety of individuals laid claim to Redonda's throne. In 2007, the Wellington Arms pub in Southampton, UK, stated it was the embassy of Redonda in a canny attempt to avoid the newly introduced smoking ban. The British government rejected this request, however, as it recognised Redonda as part of the territory of Antigua and Barbuda. Most recently, the Spanish author Javier Marías was king of Redonda until his death in September 2022 and gave titles to notable figures such as filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar and author Ian McEwan.

New Atlantis

While a number of micronation founders have sought to lay claim to land, others have attempted to build their new kingdoms on the ocean. Leicester Hemingway, the brother of *A Farewell To Arms* author Earnest Hemingway, was one such individual.



BELOW Leicester Hemingway, the brother of Ernest, proudly displays the location of New Atlantis

BOTTOM An aerial photograph of the Kingdom of Redonda in the Caribbean

MICRONATION AND MURDER

How a micronation was linked to the slaying of a fashion icon

On 15 July 1997, 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion. Eight days later Cunanan took his own life on a houseboat he had broken into, owned by German Torsten Reineck. Bizzarely, found among the items on the houseboat was a passport for Sealand, and Reineck even had diplomatic plates for Sealand on his car.

It soon became apparent that a criminal gang had been manufacturing fake Sealand passports and selling them through a website. Some buyers would use Sealand passports to open bank accounts in false names and attempt to draw out hundreds of millions of dollars. One such individual even identified himself as the minister of economic affairs for Sealand. At one point, for $1,000 another group purportedly sold 4,000 Sealand passports to residents of Hong Kong. Some years later Sealand would cease issuing passports altogether, though 'knighthoods' and other titles can be purchased on its website.

ABOVE The Principality of Sealand as it stands today

ABOVE-LEFT INSET Prince Roy Paddy Bates of Sealand and his wife Princess Joan

In 1964 he established the kingdom of New Atlantis after purportedly anchoring an "8 x 30 foot bamboo raft to an old Ford engine block in 50 feet of water eight miles southwest of Jamaica," wrote the University of Texas' Harry Ransom Center.

Leicester claimed the territory using the 1856 Guano Islands Act, which allowed US citizens to claim land if lucrative guano deposits (bird excrement) were found there. Leicester was proclaimed president and the new nation created a flag and currency. Having printed stamps, Leicester even sent one to US president Lyndon B Johnson, who in a thank-you note greeted him as President of New Atlantis.

However, New Atlantis didn't last long and within a few short years of its founding met a similar fate to its mythical namesake. When a particularly harsh storm devastated the area, Leicester's raft became untethered and the 'island' went floating out into the ocean. Although Leicester claimed up until 1980 that he suspected the raft to be somewhere near Haiti, he never went in search of his lost kingdom.

The founding of Sealand

Located off the British coast, the principality of Sealand is arguably the world's most famous micronation. Established on Roughs Tower – a World War II sea fort – its origins lie with pirate radio stations. During the early 1960s, the BBC resisted the notion of playing popular music on the airwaves and would largely avoid doing so until 30 September 1967 when it launched Radio 1. Prior to this a large number of pirate radio stations catered to the popular tastes of the people, broadcasting from just outside Britain's territorial waters on small boats and in some cases abandoned sea forts.

Various pirate radio stations vied for control of the forts, with violence occasionally breaking out. Paddy Roy Bates, an enterprising ex-fusilier who had served in World War II, took over Knock John Tower seeking to get into the pirate radio business. However, he was fined £100 by the government for illegal broadcasting and soon set his sights on the more appealing property of Roughs Tower, 5km outside British territorial waters. Bates had grand plans for the fort, seeking to turn it into a lucrative business.

On 2 September 1967, Bates declared the fort to be the independent Principality of Sealand, naming himself as prince and his wife as princess. There were several attempts by the Royal Navy to remove them. In what they describe as a "separate incident", a UK government ship approached the fort and Bates and his son Michael fired warning shots across the ship's bow. When they came across to the British mainland for supplies, they were promptly arrested and placed in custody. What resulted was a legal battle in which the court ruled that the

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government had no formal jurisdiction over the fort, given the episode had occurred outside of its borders. Despite naval plans to bomb the installation no such attack was ever carried out and Sealand was left to flourish.

The invasion of Sealand

By 1975, Sealand had developed its own constitution as well as flags, coins, a national anthem and passports. At this point the tiny principality had some 50 inhabitants, both family and maintenance personnel. However, in 1978 Sealand would find itself in a fight for its very existence when the principality became the target of an invasion attempt by a group of German and Dutch interlopers. Bates had been invited to discuss the possibility of a casino being built on Sealand by a consortium of lawyers and diamond merchants. When no one appeared for the second meeting, he discovered to his horror that his son had been taken prisoner and Sealand was in the hands of the invaders. Though his son was returned to him, Bates was not going to let anyone push him around. They would retake Sealand – by force.

The invaders must have been startled when, a short time later, Bates and his son came sliding down a rope from a helicopter, firing machine guns in their direction. The helicopter was piloted by John Crewsdon, who had flown helicopters in several James Bond films and had been the aviation advisor for *Dr Strangelove*. The invaders were not prepared for such an attack and immediately surrendered, all set free except one, Gernot Pütz, the lawyer of Alexander Gottfried Achenbach, a diamond merchant and the man deemed most likely to have been behind the attempt to take over Sealand. In order to get its citizen released, Germany sent a diplomat to Sealand to negotiate. To the principality this was the de facto recognition of its sovereignty that it sought.

Atlantium Rises

Atlantium was founded in 1981 by a trio of enterprising teenagers from Sydney, Australia. The idea behind Atlantium was to question the established notion that a state has any authority over its citizens. As such, Atlantium issues no visas to visitors, believing in unrestricted international freedom of movement. Its population of 3,000 citizens are not in permanent residence and instead reside all over the world. In an April 2022 interview with the BBC one of Atlantium's founders, George Cruickshank, declared "Atlantium isn't striving for legal recognition as a sovereign state," and instead was "intended to make people question the existence of traditional nation states."

Space in Atlantium's Government House can currently be rented on Airbnb, the advertisement boasting that "Atlantium is entirely independent of the Australian power, gas and water grids; Government House is equipped with a gas fridge and BBQ facilities, solar-powered lighting and a solar-powered induction cooktop, microwave, toaster, music system, television and reverse-cycle air conditioning."

LEFT His Imperial Majesty George II of Atlantium meets Prince Paul Delprat of the Principality of Wy during Australia's first Conference of Micronations, held in 2010

BELOW Nimis, Lars Vilks' sculpture which eventually led to the creation of Ladonia

BOTTOM Vilks founded Ladonia in Switzerland in 1980

"With new micronations emerging all over the world and even beyond it, who knows what exciting sovereign states are just waiting to be founded?"

Ladonia

Micronations have been founded for a multitude of reasons, as Ladonia, on territory claimed in southern Switzerland, demonstrates. In 1980 the controversial artist Lars Vilks began constructing a vast tower out of driftwood that he named Nimis. However, the sculpture was reported to the authorities and Vilks found himself facing a conviction. When he began work on a stone sculpture, this time known as Arx, that too was reported and Vilks found himself convicted for a second time. Yet in 1996 the Swiss chancellor of justice found in favour of Vilks in both cases. As the Swedish authorities were deemed not to have control over the territory, the area was deemed independent and named Ladonia. Uniquely, Ladonia has stated in its constitution that it will never be ruled by a male, and in 2010 it was reportedly in the grip of a constitutional crisis when its queen ceased performing her duties.

Micronations in space

In 2016 Dr Igor Ashurbeyli created Asgardia, declaring it to be the "first space nation". The nation is centred on a satellite, launched into orbit in 2017, and was designed as a "digital nation". The 'nanosat' Asgardia-I, described by *Big Think* as being "no heavier than an earth baby and about the size of a loaf of bread", contains information regarding 100,000 of the nation's citizens. As demonstrated by concept art created by James Vaughan, Asgardia one day hopes to establish lavish permanent living in outer space for its citizens. The reported goals of Asgardia are to ensure the peaceful use of outer space, to protect Earth from threats such as solar flares and to "create a demilitarised and free scientific base of knowledge".

However, it could be said that Asgardia is infringing on the territory of another micronation – the Nation of Celestial Space, aka Celestia. On 20 December 1948, James T Mangan laid claim to all of outer space and declared himself its first representative. Celestia's official website says the micronation's central philosophy is "magnanimity" and "by achieving bigness of mind, he [Mangan] insists the people of the world can find lasting peace." Mangan's belief was that by laying claim to space himself, he would prevent any one country from doing so and make sure that outer space was therefore claimed for the benefit of humanity. On 1 January 1949 he registered his acquisition at the Recorder of Deeds and Titles in Cook County in Illinois. Mangan then attempted to gain recognition from major world powers such as the US and Soviet Union, even writing to request that they desist from sending rockets into his territory.

The future of micronations

There's little doubt that micronations are here to stay. Whether they are attempts to overcome the perceived unfair rules of a state, a physical expression of the freedom of art, or simply a joke, they all demonstrate the imagination and ingenuity of their founders. With new micronations emerging all over the world and even beyond it, who knows what exciting sovereign states are just waiting to be founded?

THE MICRONATION TRAVEL GUIDE

Pack your passport! Here are four micronations you can actually visit

THE CONCH REPUBLIC

Location: Florida Keys

In 1982, when the US government installed a Border Patrol blockade of the Florida Keys, purportedly to catch illegal immigrants and drug traffickers, Mayor Dennis Wardlow seceded from the Union. The Conch Republic website states that it exists as "a protest against the folly of zealotry resulting in the people of the Florida Keys being literally alienated as American." The Conch Republic's welcome centre and merchandise booth is open every day and they also operate trips aboard historic schooners and various water sports activities.

REPUBLIC OF KUGELMUGEL

wiki/ Flag Creator

Location: Vienna

The Republic of Kugelmugel is located in Vienna, though it was originally founded in Katzelsdorf. The unique spherical house on which it centres was built by artist Edwin Lipburger. When he was informed that spherical houses were not allowed, he announced it was its own state and issued coins and stamps. Kugelmugel is now primarily a performance space and gallery.

REPUBLIC OF MOLOSSIA

Location: Nevada

Established in 1977, Molossia is now a military dictatorship of 34 (comprising 30 humans and four dogs). Boasting a navy and space programme (in reality inflatable boats and toy rockets) Molossia is certainly one of the quirkiest micronations currently open to tourists. Visitors can view Molossia's impressive (model) railway.

REPUBLIC OF SAUGEAIS

Location: France

wiki/ Carnby

Located in the département of Doubs in France, the Republic of Saugeais was formed because of a joke made by a restaurant owner. Its presidents are elected by an 'applause metre' and the population mostly comprises of elderly citizens. Visitors have to go through Saugeais 'customs' and have to be given a permit to enter.

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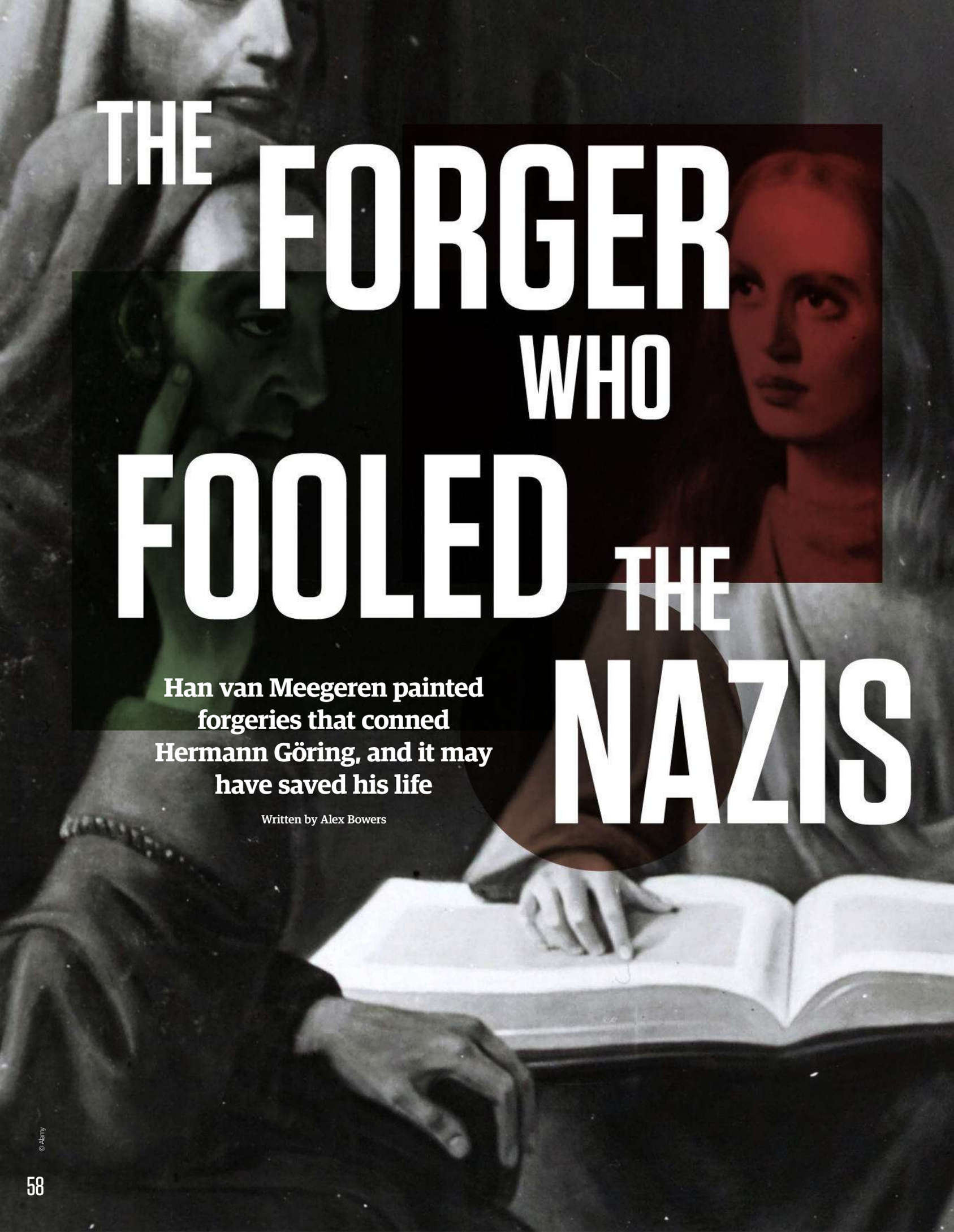
THE FORGER WHO FOOLED THE NAZIS

Han van Meegeren painted forgeries that conned Hermann Göring, and it may have saved his life

Written by Alex Bowers



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In the ruins of Berlin in 1945, a book with a curious inscription was discovered in the personal library of Adolf Hitler. The deluxe volume of poems, co-authored by a Nazi Dutch writer, contained illustrations from artist and fellow countryman Han van Meegeren. Within its pages, van Meegeren had seemingly penned a glowing dedication to his "beloved Führer|", which posed a considerable threat to the painter who had by then been arrested as a potential Nazi collaborator, with a possible jail sentence looming over him.

But it was to be his association with another Nazi leader – notorious art plunderer Hermann Göring – that would garner the vast majority of the public's attention. A few years earlier, the German Reichsmarschall had purchased a painting he believed to be the creation of renowned 17th-century artist Johannes Vermeer. Except he hadn't. What Göring had bought was an 'authentic' van Meegeren forgery, a wickedly gratifying con that elevated its maker's status from traitor to cunning anti-hero in an instant. It also, perhaps most significantly, left the art world reeling from the harsh reality of fakes.

"SUCH HAD BEEN HIS FERVENT DESIRE TO REPLICATE THE OLD MASTERS THAT HE WAS TO BE CHARGED WITH SELLING OFF THEIR GENUINE PAINTINGS"

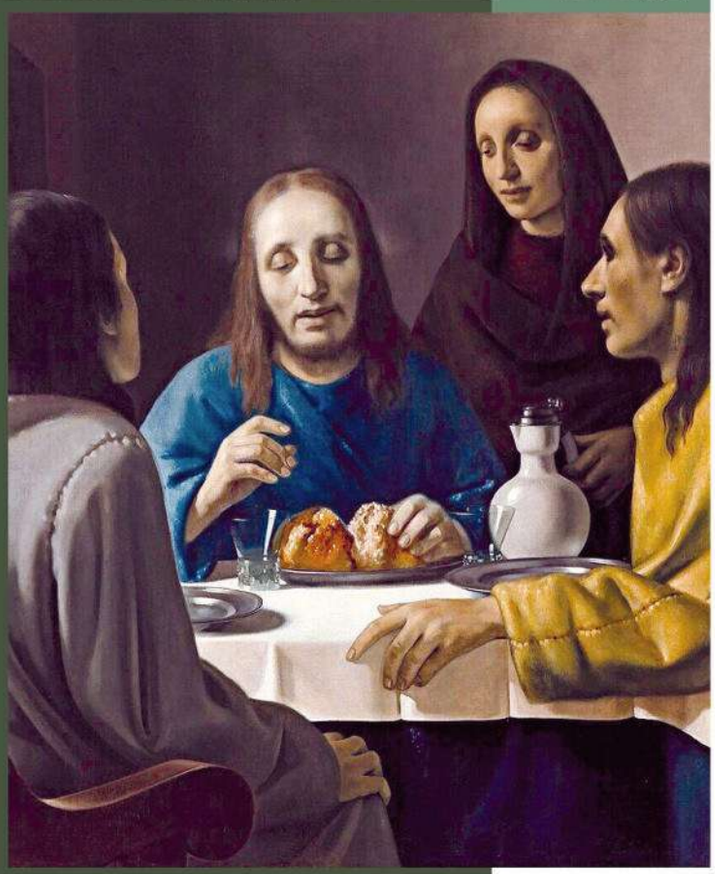
THE MAKING OF A MASTER FORGER

Born in 1889 to a Catholic family in the Netherlands, Henricus van Meegeren – nicknamed Han – was never destined to become an artist in his parents' eyes. The boy's passion for Dutch Golden Age art was dismissed by his father, who sent him to study architecture in Delft – the hometown of Vermeer. There, his admiration for the Old Masters only grew, and he decided against taking his final architect examination and instead pursued a career in drawing and painting. Around this time, he married art student Anna de Voogt and the couple had their first of two children together. His household then moved to The Hague for van Meegeren to study for a degree at the local art academy.

The painter's first public exhibition of legitimate work was heralded a success in 1917. Unfortunately, the Biblical themes of his second exhibition – while commercially successful and largely praised – failed to endear every critic. Reported infidelities, especially on various European tours, likewise prompted the breakdown of his marriage as his insatiable lust for the high life reached new levels. Divorcing Anna in 1923, van Meegeren turned to alcohol and other vices to ease his disillusionment with a fickle art scene. Despite having carved out a modest existence with his sketches, drawings and paintings, his bitterness towards his detractors, spurred on by his craving for fame and fortune, led him down a dark path.

TAKING ARTISTIC LICENCE

In 1928, van Meegeren's resentment found a new outlet when he started publishing a reactionary arts magazine called *De Kemphaan* (*The Fighting Cock*). The platform enabled him to spout extremist rhetoric, denouncing modern painting as "art-Bolshevism" whose proponents were nothing more than a "slimy bunch of woman-haters and negro-lovers", at one stage invoking the image of "a Jew with a handcart" to symbolise the international art market. But his desire for revenge took him further. Having married his second wife, Johanna de Boer, he moved to the south of France hoping to reclaim his prestige through questionable means. He planned on creating a series of forgeries that would resemble the Old Masters in every conceivable way to secure his place alongside them.



TOP After his arrest in 1945, van Meegeren painted *Christ in the Temple* to showcase his forgery skills for his imminent court appearance

LEFT An imitation of Vermeer's style with *Smiling Girl*, that seems to draw from the look and pose of the celebrated *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

ABOVE *The Supper of Emmaus* was one of van Meegeren's most famous works, later fooling art critic Dr Abraham Bredius into believing it was an authentic Vermeer

Van Meegeren already had some experience making counterfeits, albeit on a much smaller scale. It took a few more years to perfect his technique, a drawn-out affair that required ingenious improvisation. Beginning with the canvas, he purchased works of what he considered to be mediocre 17th-century artists over which he could paint. Meanwhile, the pigments and tools he utilised were only those that had been readily available in the period of Vermeer and his esteemed contemporaries. His greatest challenge was replicating age, although even this he achieved with the application of Bakelite, a component almost impossible to analyse with the methods at hand during that period. Once setting the modern synthetic resin onto the canvas, van Meegeren baked the painting to harden the material. The result was a piece of artwork that could pass as being 300 years old. Finally, for the sake of perceived authenticity, he added blemishes that alluded to the ravages of time. All that was left was to see whether his harshest critics would be fooled by his fraud.

'EVERY INCH A VERMEER'

Van Meegeren built up a collection of fakes in the French Riviera, not only in the style of Vermeer but also other Dutch Golden Age painters. His two imitations of artist Pieter de Hooch – *Interior with Drinkers* and *The Cardplayers* – were great examples of his versatile skills. Nevertheless, returning from the Berlin Olympics in 1936, he created *The Supper at Emmaus*, soon to become one of his most famous fabrications of Vermeer. By September 1937, the forgery had caught the attention of Rembrandt expert Dr Abraham Bredius, who, writing in the British art publication *The Burlington Magazine*, declared: "It is a wonderful moment in the life of a lover of art when he finds himself suddenly confronted with a hitherto unknown painting by a great master, untouched, on the original canvas, and without any restoration, just as it left the painter's studio. And what a picture!... we have here – I am inclined to say – the masterpiece of Johannes Vermeer of Delft... quite different from all his other paintings and yet every inch a Vermeer. In no other picture by the great master of Delft do we find such sentiment, such a profound understanding of the Bible story – a sentiment so nobly human expressed through the medium of highest art." Van Meegeren had succeeded in convincing one of his most despised disparagers that *The Supper at Emmaus* was a 17th-century work of art from one of the most highly revered Dutch painters.

'JO DIDN'T KNOW'

Was van Meegeren's ex-wife Johanna an innocent bystander or complicit in his crimes?

Johanna's involvement in her husband's forgery empire has been speculated upon ever since van Meegeren's deception was uncovered. A professional actress, she had been married before to art critic Carel de Boer, whom she divorced in 1927. Johanna and van Meegeren had long been entangled in a love affair, and in 1928 they married. Whether their relationship extended to partners in crime is a matter reserved for conjecture, however probable it appears. Van Meegeren was consistent in telling interested parties that "Jo didn't know", despite several factors pointing in the opposite direction. Namely, their seemingly strategic divorce in December 1943 – while they stayed together – enabled the artist to transfer funds into her accounts, thereby protecting the money from unexpected circumstances. Even prior to that stage, when van Meegeren was creating forgeries in the 1930s, his mysterious wealth would have undoubtedly raised the eyebrows of any wife. Had authorities been given cause to believe that Johanna was an accomplice, her capital would have been confiscated like that of van Meegeren himself. Therefore it was in the couple's interest to forge a story that implied a level of ignorance on Johanna's part; that way, once van Meegeren had served out his sentence, they could still live a life of decadence. The painter's death in 1947 would have put an end to that potential dream, but Johanna was nevertheless able to hold onto her funds, which she used until her own death at 91.

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Had he been inclined to contemplate revealing his scheme to prove his critics wrong and showcase his genius, it was now almost certainly too late. Upon discovering that his painting would make him what would today be several million dollars, there was no longer any justifiable reason in his mind to tell the world of his ruse. Van Meegeren maintained his silence, took the vast sum of money, and purchased a lavishly decorated 12-bedroom estate in Nice. From his new home, he continued to experiment with his forgeries. But with the ominous clouds of war gathering above Europe in 1939, he decided to move back to the Netherlands, still intent on bolstering his funds to feed his opulent lifestyle.

A BRUSH WITH GÖRING

The Nazi occupation of Holland changed the way van Meegeren operated. Since most museums had placed their masterpieces in storage to protect against war damage, there were fewer Vermeer paintings to compare against his work. Their absence allowed for a degree of negligence in the criminal artist's counterfeits, which suffered from poor quality and the use of innovations not seen until the 19th century, some 200 years after the Old Masters. Van Meegeren's chain-smoking and alcohol consumption increased. In 1943, he divorced his second wife, albeit as a formality as the couple remained together, but with a sizable share of van Meegeren's capital being transferred into her accounts, presumably to safeguard from the uncertainties of the conflict. Settling in Amsterdam that same year, van Meegeren's newest forgeries boosted his ever-profitable enterprise. Among them were *Isaac Blessing Jacob* and *The Footwashing* – both Biblical pictures somewhat reminiscent of Vermeer. One would have more impact than the rest: the Vermeer-esque *Christ and the Adulteress*.

Nazi banker and art dealer Alois Miedl had by then acquired *Christ and the Adulteress* when Göring decided to purchase it. The consequential transaction – amounting to a 1.65 million guilder price tag that might have included a trade of looted paintings for the fake – was to have a significant influence on van Meegeren. Like the Nazis themselves, his luck was about to take a turn for the worse. Göring hid his prized possession in an underground cavern alongside innumerable other stolen relics, but the horde was discovered by US Captain Harry Anderson of the so-called Monuments Men in May 1945. It wasn't long until the subsequent Allied investigation landed squarely at the feet of van Meegeren. Arrested on 29 May, the millionaire was accused not of forgery but of stealing Dutch cultural property and collaboration with the Nazis. Such had been his fervent desire to replicate the Old Masters that he was to be charged with selling off their genuine paintings.

"THE PAINTER'S HUMILIATION OF GÖRING SPARKED WIDESPREAD JOY, IN PART PROMPTED BY VAN MEEGEREN'S DEFT STORY-SPINNING AT HIS TRIAL"

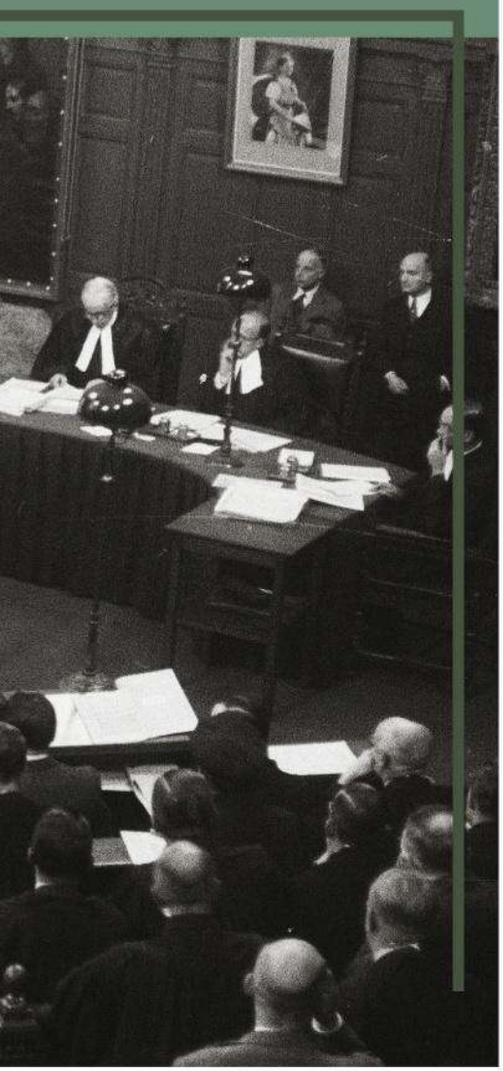
THE TRIAL OF VAN MEEGEREN

Van Meegeren faced the prospect of prison if proven to have robbed the Netherlands of its precious artwork for the gains of Third Reich officials. He laboured over how best to defend his actions, and after two weeks he came up with a solution. The painter admitted to some – but not all – of his forgeries before leaning into the oft-publicised tale that his trickery had been a stunt to teach the Nazis a lesson. He should not be treated as a sympathiser, van Meegeren implied to authorities, but as a national hero. Though it's unknown whether Göring ever learned of the deception as he stood trial in Nuremberg for his own crimes, it wasn't he who needed to be convinced. Van Meegeren illustrated his capabilities by creating his final fake Vermeer beginning in July 1945 in front of reporters and court-appointed witnesses. *Christ in the Temple*, once the last brush stroke had swept across the canvas, would be enough to have the most serious charges dropped. Yet it wouldn't be enough to absolve him of his confessed forgeries, which could still carry with them a prison sentence of two years.

On 29 October 1947, the trial of van Meegeren went ahead. A commission of international art experts examined the paintings identified as fake, now armed with the knowledge required to determine the chemical compositions of the paints applied to them. Incriminating items were uncovered in the artist's studios, including

ABOVE The 1947 trial of van Meegeren – who is seen here watching the proceedings from the dock – captivated the post-war world

BELOW Göring was a notorious art plunderer. The fact that he had been fooled into buying the forged *Christ and the Adulteress* was a source of great humour for the public



Bakelite, lending credence to claims of artistic fabrication. Further demonstrations and analysis drew similar conclusions. Ultimately, on 12 November 1947, van Meegeren was found guilty of fraud and forgery, leading to a one-year prison sentence and the forfeiture of his wealth – excluding the funds held by his ex-wife Johanna through their convenient divorce. Probably expecting to see out his sentence before rekindling his relationship, van Meegeren's supposed aspirations were cut short by his declining health. In a sudden turn of events, on 30 December he suffered heart failure and was pronounced dead aged 58.

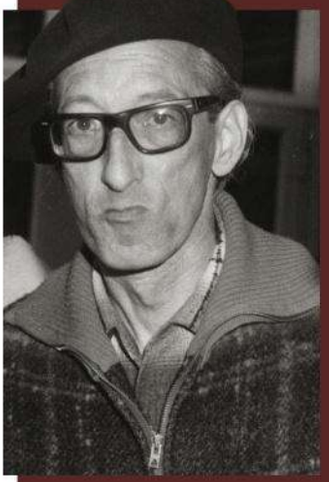
THE FRAUD AND THE STORY-TELLER:

Having escaped death at the hands of a court only to succumb to the apparent after-effects of his addictions and lifestyle, the late van Meegeren's property was auctioned off to the highest bidder. His sudden passing left the Dutch public with more questions than answers, the most pressing of which was how his chequered legacy should be remembered. The painter's humiliation of the pompous Göring had sparked widespread joy, in part prompted by van Meegeren's deft story-spinning throughout his trial. Equally, his alleged tribute to Hitler in the unearthed poetry book threatened to unravel his slick persona in spite of the accused's adamant denials that he was the author of those troubling words. Even today, perceptions surrounding the exploits of van Meegeren remain in the eyes of the beholder – much like his forgeries.

But the multi-million-dollar question was to be asked by the art world van Meegeren had so successfully duped: how many of his paintings were still hanging in museums and galleries under false pretences? There is a slight possibility that even now acclaimed 17th-century masterpieces are, in reality, 20th-century imitations conjured by a man whose swindling made him a fortune. Estimates vary on how much he conned out of his victims, but some figures put it in the range of hundreds of millions of dollars by today's standards. The forgeries themselves – at last attributed to their real creator – have since been displayed in institutes around the globe, often a short distance from the Old Masters van Meegeren aspired to be.

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

The stranger-than-fiction story of how Jacques van Meegeren followed a similar path to his father, but with less success



For most forgers, the art of becoming a fraud is a skill learnt with time, trial and error. For Han van Meegeren's son Jacques, it appeared that genes had at least a minor part to play as well. Born in 1912 to his father's first wife, Jacques was reported to be a sickly child who shared a distant relationship with the painter. The boy nevertheless loved being allowed into van Meegeren's studio, where he was occasionally permitted to help tidy or clean brushes. In later years, he accompanied his father on trips to art dealers or museums, offering him an insight into the inner workings of the world van Meegeren inhabited. Jacques learned how to sketch and draw, although he still had to endure periods of paternal neglect. But there is no denying that his father would have a dramatic influence on him upon reaching adulthood. Han van Meegeren had already filed for bankruptcy when he died – this left Jacques without a substantial inheritance, which he partly offset by painting commissioned portraits. At that stage, however, his late father's forgeries, since revealed for what they were, had become popular unto themselves. Jacques eventually began forging Han van Meegeren's signature on his own works, enabling them to sell for much higher prices. His Biblical depictions bore a vague resemblance to the elder van Meegeren in most instances, yet he struggled to replicate the quality of his father's earlier paintings and so his funds dwindled. Having become bitter and by then drinking heavily, Jacques died in 1977. The parallels between the two forgers' lives a generation apart are both intriguing and tragic.

MIDDLE An American soldier examines stacks of Jewish-owned art looted by the Nazis and found hidden in a German church

LEFT Having filed for bankruptcy in 1945, van Meegeren's property was auctioned off in the autumn of 1950

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The American forces managed to cross the treacherous River Delaware without losing a single man or artillery piece

© Getty Images

Greatest Battles

BATTLE OF TRENTON

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, USA, 26 DECEMBER 1776

Written by David Smith

As 1776 drew to a close, the rebel army under George Washington had suffered a string of demoralising defeats. Worse than that, they had often proved unable to stand against the larger British army, led by General William Howe. The Americans had broken and run at the Battle of Long Island and during the British landings on Manhattan. Washington was scrabbling to hold together the remnants of his army.

As Christmas approached, the British settled down for a winter in New York and made plans for their 1777 campaign. Howe prepared an overwhelming combination of operations and the revolutionary cause looked to be on the verge of dying, but while Howe made his plans for the following year, Washington had ideas to act much sooner than that.

When the British ended their offensive operations for the year, they went into 'winter quarters'. This included an extensive string of posts in New Jersey, intended to encourage loyalists in the colony to feel confident enough to join the British cause.

Washington was in the depths of despair, knowing that his army was on the brink of complete collapse and seeing no hope of support from the local population. His numbers had dwindled to around 3,500 and only the Delaware River was between him and the British. As the weather worsened, the river would freeze and Washington feared the British would then cross it in force to hunt down his tiny army.

On the verge of losing the war, Washington listened to the advice of Colonel Joseph Reed, who had looked at the British posts in New Jersey and come to the same conclusion as Howe – they were spread too thinly – and Reed believed an attack was possible. The post at Trenton was the most tempting target, and the raising of a small number of militia gave Washington the numbers to try something wildly ambitious.

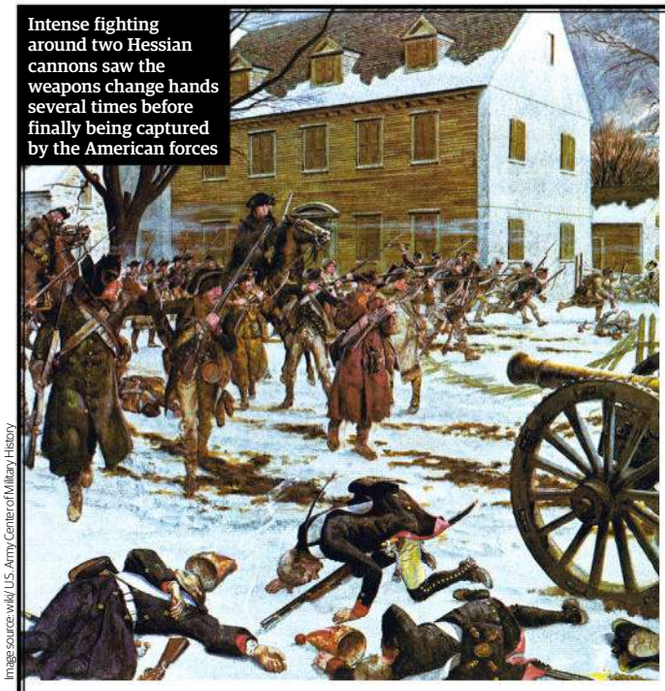
THE HESSIANS

There were three regiments (the Knyphausen, Rall and Lossberg Regiments) at Trenton. These were Hessians, German troops hired by the British to boost their numbers, but there were 20 or so men of the 16th Light Dragoons (a British unit) as well. Their total numbers were around 1,300 to 1,400.

There are many myths surrounding the Battle of Trenton, one of them being that the garrison was drunk after celebrating Christmas and was caught completely off guard. This was far from the truth, as the German soldiers had been forced to remain alert thanks to continuous guerrilla actions from patriot militia.

The Hessian commander, Colonel Johann Rall, had performed well at the Battle of White Plains and the taking of Fort Washington just weeks earlier. His orders ensured that one out of the three regiments was always on high alert and ready for immediate action, but elsewhere he showed signs of laxness. He failed to build defensive redoubts in the town, despite being advised to do so by his engineers.

Also working against the Hessians was the fact that the repeated militia attacks had worn down their nerves over the preceding weeks. A garrison



Intense fighting around two Hessian cannons saw the weapons change hands several times before finally being captured by the American forces

Image source: wiki/U.S. Army Center of Military History

The Passage of the Delaware by Thomas Sully shows George Washington after crossing the River Delaware at the Battle of Trenton

© Alamy

can only stay at peak alertness for a limited amount of time before fatigue sets in, and this was almost certainly the case with the German soldiers as they endured a miserable winter far from home.

PLAN OF ATTACK

This was to be the first major offensive operation planned by Washington. So far, he had tried to recreate the success at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Washington had therefore adopted strong defensive positions on Long Island and at White Plains, hoping that Howe would suffer heavy losses in an assault, but the British general had been cagey. Howe had commanded the British at Bunker Hill and was not eager to repeat the experience.

The plan invited disaster for several reasons. The weather was appalling, and Washington's troops were inexperienced and dispirited. They would have to cross a river that was made hazardous by floating blocks of ice and they were attacking an experienced foe. The plan was also complex and depended on three separate bodies of men crossing the Delaware at different points and coordinating their assault.

The plan was for the three corps to cross the Delaware on the night of Christmas Day. A force of 800 Pennsylvania militia was ordered to cross below Trenton and seize the bridge out of town over Assunpink Creek. This was an obvious escape route for the Hessians and sealing it off would prevent them from disengaging easily. Brigadier General James Ewing was given command of this small corps.

Colonel John Cadwalader (temporarily elevated to the rank of brigadier general for this operation) was given 1,800 men, a mixture of militia and regular infantry from the Continental Army. They were to stage a diversionary raid further south, grabbing the attention of the garrison at Bordentown and preventing them from coming to the relief of Trenton.

Washington saved most of his best men, 2,400 Continentals, for the main body. He would command this corps, landing about nine miles (approximately 15km) north-west of Trenton and descending on the town just before dawn on Boxing Day.

CHALLENGES

The weather was bad as the three columns set off to their respective destinations. Washington received word just before leaving that General Horatio Gates was planning to address Congress, advocating the abandonment of the northern colonies and bringing the army south. This would have been a clear condemnation of Washington's performance. As he started his march to Trenton he would have been aware that this might very well be his last chance.

A storm blew up as the rebels marched, making an already miserable experience even worse, but it actually proved beneficial. The Hessians did not believe it would be possible to launch an attack in such weather and they cancelled their usual pre-dawn patrol for the following morning. Another slice of good luck had already fallen the Americans' way – Colonel Rall had been warned of an imminent attack, but a small-scale raid of no more than 50 men had taken place on Christmas Day. Rall believed this to have been the rebel attack and the Hessian post was slightly more relaxed than usual as Washington's men approached.

The rebels were three hours behind schedule when they reached the Delaware and took longer to cross than anticipated. Even so, it was a remarkable feat as nobody was lost in the crossing. Even more impressive was the fact they brought artillery with them and didn't lose a single gun.

Despite this achievement Washington had no way of knowing that his plan had already unravelled: his was the only one of the three corps to have safely crossed the river. The attack on Trenton would have to go ahead without any diversionary action and with the escape route over Assunpink Creek open.

The march was brutal and at least two American soldiers died of exposure. Halfway to Trenton, Washington divided his force into two groups, intending to attack at the exact same moment from different sides of the town. To facilitate this, he ordered his officers to synchronise watches, one of the very first times this tactic was employed. Finally, he sent two 40-man patrols to gather up anybody in the vicinity and prevent them from warning the Hessians. The attack was behind schedule, but it was still moving ahead. By 8am, the Americans were ready to strike.

HESSIAN RESPONSE

The first Hessian soldiers to be attacked were manning a small outpost. They kept their heads, returned fire and withdrew to the town to raise the alarm. If Washington had hoped to provoke panic in the garrison it looked like he had failed.

Although calm, the Hessian officer in charge of the outpost, Lieutenant Wiederholdt, was confused. He told Rall that Trenton was surrounded and the Hessian commander ordered a counterattack rather than gathering his men and withdrawing across the unguarded Assunpink bridge.

Fighting became fierce as the garrison turned out and counterattacked. Washington and Nathanael Greene commanded the corps moving in from the north, while John Sullivan moved in from the west. Fighting became intense around two Hessian guns, which changed hands several times until Washington's men finally possessed them and turned them on their former owners. Around the same time, Rall was struck by two musket balls and fell, mortally wounded.

The situation was still far from desperate, but the Hessians crumbled without their commanding officer. The Knyphausen Regiment attempted to

withdraw across the Assunpink, but elements of Sullivan's corps had now taken control of the bridge. The Lossberg and Rall Regiments retreated into an orchard to the east of the town and were soon surrounded.

Outnumbered and with no line of retreat, the Hessians surrendered. The fighting had been brief but intense, and the Hessians had suffered 106 casualties, including 22 dead. More than 900 of them were captured, while some escaped by whatever means they could – even swimming over the icy Assunpink.

THE AFTERMATH

Washington had secured a remarkable victory. Only a handful of his men had been wounded in the attack and his boldness had been entirely vindicated. At the time, he lamented that he was not able to follow up his success. By now he knew that the other two corps had failed to cross the Delaware, so his numbers were too low to risk an attack on Bordentown. Reluctantly, he ordered his men to return to their base.

With his men safely returned, he heard that Cadwalader's corps had managed to cross the Delaware after all. They were a day late, but they were stubbornly refusing to return to base without at least attempting something.

Washington was running up against a familiar problem: his men's enlistments were due to run out at the end of the year. He offered a bounty of $10 to any man who would agree to remain in the ranks for a further six weeks and the majority of his men, freshly enthused by their success, agreed. This gave Washington the numbers to take a huge risk: now they would be crossing the Delaware again with the country stirred up like a hornets' nest.

Howe had been frustrated by the reversal at Trenton, which threatened to unravel much if not all of the good work he had accomplished during the campaign. From Princeton he sent his best men, commanded by one of his best officers, to retake Trenton and restore control.

Lord Charles Cornwallis was one of Howe's most aggressive generals and he set out from Princeton on 1 January 1777 at the head of some of the best units in the British Army. The light infantry battalion, British and German grenadiers, Hessian jägers, British Guards and the 16th Light Dragoons made up a daunting opponent for Washington's men. Crucially, Washington had moved quickly and had crossed the Delaware, linked up with Cadwalader and reoccupied Trenton before Cornwallis reached him. The stage was set for the Second Battle of Trenton.

SECOND BATTLE

On 2 January, Cornwallis arrived to find Washington in control of the town. The American general quickly recognised he was in danger but a full withdrawal was impossible, as it would take hours to recross the Delaware to safety. He therefore ordered his men to cross the Assunpink and took

UNITED STATES

GEORGE WASHINGTON

While commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, Washington was under increasing pressure in the build up to Trenton. His dramatic victory was a timely morale boost for the Americans, but also burnished his reputation and increased faith in his leadership. After American victory, Washington was a hero and elected as the first president of the United States.

NATHANAEL GREENE

A major general in the Continental Army, Greene was given command of part of Washington's forces at Trenton and at the battle at Princeton. He was made quartermaster general in 1778 and took control of the army in the southern theatre from 1780. He served in the army until 1783, when he retired to his plantation, however he died only three years later aged 43.

JOHN SULLIVAN

Sullivan, like Greene, was in command of part of Washington's forces at Trenton and served with the future president for many years, although he had only recently been released in a prisoner exchange before this engagement. He was a delegate at the Continental Congress for New Hampshire and also served as governor and a District Court judge.

GREAT BRITAIN/HESSE-CASSEL

WILLIAM HOWE

The commander-in-chief of British land forces during the American War of Independence, Howe had been in Trenton, but returned to New York thinking the fighting was over for the season. Washington was keen to strike a blow while he was absent. He was unable to regain ground, recalling his men to New York. After the war he inherited the title of Viscount following the death of his brother.

5x © Getty Images

JOHANN RALL

Rall was the Hessian commander in charge of the colonial troops at Trenton. He started his career aged around 14, going on to fight in the War of Austrian Succession, Seven Years' War and Fourth Russo-Turkish War. He had served in America from 1776, taking part in the battles at Long Island, White Plains and Fort Washington. He was shot twice at Trenton and died that night.

up a defensive position on the high ground there, demonstrating exactly what Colonel Rall should have done just days earlier.

The strength of Washington's position was made clear as Cornwallis launched repeated attacks throughout the day, knowing what a serious blow it would be to the revolution if the rebel commander-in-chief was captured or killed. The Americans held firm, inflicting around 350 casualties on the British and German forces.

When dusk brought an end to the fighting for the day, both camps lit fires, prepared supper and contemplated the following morning, when Cornwallis would undoubtedly attack again. Washington, who had suffered just 50 casualties, could see that the British must find a way across the creek eventually, and he decided not to give them a chance. Leaving his campfires lit as a diversion, he withdrew his men in silence.

Washington headed to Princeton, which was now defended by just a small garrison. Cornwallis had called up reinforcements from Princeton and Washington's army met 700 British troops marching to Trenton the next day. The ensuing battle (known as the Battle of Princeton) gave the British garrison time to evacuate and remove a large amount of supplies, so when Washington's men finally occupied the town their only reward was glory.

It was enough, however, to reinvigorate the revolutionary cause.

CONSEQUENCES

Washington had inflicted around 1,700 casualties on Howe's army. With reinforcements needing to come all the way from Europe, this was no small matter for the British. Even more important was the fact that Washington had shown his men could fight and win against professional soldiers.

The overall effects of the raids went far beyond their relatively small scale, however. Howe felt that covering the entirety of New Jersey was no longer feasible and he drew his men into a much more limited string of posts. American patriots were emboldened and guerrilla actions against the occupying forces increased.

Howe chose to see the setbacks as evidence that the loyalist population in New Jersey was not as strong as he had once believed, and this caused him to change his entire planning for the 1777 campaign. While he had once talked of ambitious operations against the rebels, his plans became more timid, until he proposed to do little more than capture the capital city of Philadelphia.

Howe's change of heart was a key contributing factor in the failure of another British army, under John Burgoyne, pushing down from Canada the following year. Howe had originally intended supporting this army, but in his revised plans he left it to fend for itself and the result was a decisive defeat at Saratoga in October 1777.

The rebel victories at Trenton and Princeton were small in scale but have been cited by many as the turning points of the Revolutionary War.

01 Crossing the Delaware
Washington's men cross the icy Delaware river at night without suffering a single casualty.
02 Sullivan's corps advances
After splitting into two divisions to attack the town from different directions, Sullivan's men advance along the River Road.
03 The attack from the north
Greene's men, accompanied by Washington, attack the town from the north, sparking a fierce response from the Hessian garrison.
04 The Hessian guns
A pair of Hessian guns on King Street become the focal point of the battle, eventually falling into the hands of the Americans as the Hessian commander is struck down.
02 Sullivan's Division
River Road
01
Delaware River
- American Bridgade
- American Artillery
- Hessian Regiment
- Hessian Artillery

05 Taking the bridge
Sullivan's men move through the town quickly and take control of the only bridge over the Assunpink Creek, cutting off the Hessians' line of retreat.

06 No way out
The Knyphausen Regiment attempts to withdraw from the battle, but finds the bridge is occupied. They circle back towards town but are forced to surrender with their backs to the creek.

07 Refuge in the orchard
The Lossberg and Rall Regiments lose heart after Colonel Rall is mortally wounded and attempt to find cover in an orchard on the edge of town, but are soon surrounded.

08 A desperate escape
A few men are desperate enough to swim the Assunpink to safety, but the majority of the garrison of Trenton has been either killed or captured.

Map by Nicholas Forder

What If...

THE SPANISH EMPIRE HAD TRIED TO INVADE CHINA?

Could a Spanish invasion in the 16th century have resulted in a war with China?

Interview by Callum McKelvie

INTERVIEW WITH

© Alexander Samson, UCL

ALEXANDER SAMSON

Professor Alexander Samson is a professor of Early Modern Studies at University College London. He is the author of *Mary and Philip: The Marriage of Tudor England and Habsburg Spain* (Manchester University Press, 2021)

In the late 16th century, plans were floated throughout the increasingly powerful Spanish Empire for a possible conquest of China. Many of those in the recently acquired Spanish territory of Manila, including governor Francisco de Sande, were in favour of using the Philippines to stage such an attack. Were it not for the reluctance on the part of Philip II, who was occupied with threats in Europe, perhaps an invasion would have been launched. But could it have been successful? Or would it have resulted in disaster?

Why did the Spanish Empire contemplate invading China?

At the very beginning of the 16th century, the Spanish were competing with the Portuguese and wanted to seize a port similar to Macau. Spain's initial interest in China arose from early contacts between the Portuguese and Chinese. These began around 1511 in Malacca, in modern-day Malaysia, a city of perhaps 100,000 inhabitants which the Portuguese had seized from Sultan Mahmud Shah. The first European diplomatic mission departed from this Portuguese colony for the Middle Kingdom in 1517, reaching Canton before eventually setting out for Peking in 1520, where the envoys were imprisoned and then executed. The surviving ships from Ferdinand Magellan's voyage passed through the Moluccas, or Spice Islands, (known today as the Maluku Islands) in 1521, which had been discovered by the Portuguese in 1512. Very little was known about China in the West, in contrast to the Americas, until the second half of the 16th century, although there are some Portuguese manuscript sources from as early as 1524. The notion of armed incursion, the seizure of a port or of the whole province of Canton, was mooted in these accounts. They also described an "effeminate" Chinese population exploited and tyrannised by mandarins, with a defective military. The Portuguese attempted to establish themselves from the 1520s in Macau, but suffered a series of naval defeats, with the Chinese reverse-engineering and then mass-producing the canon and firearms they had captured, neutralising any military advantage Europeans may have possessed. Eventually they signed a treaty and leased Macau to the Portuguese in 1557 in exchange for silver, an arrangement that lasted until 1999.

Were there actual plans in place?

Spanish fantasies of an invasion of China, intending to duplicate what they had done in Mesoamerica [an historical region comprising the southern part of North America and almost the entirety of Central America], began to take more concrete form following the first successful trans-Pacific voyage led by Andrés de Urdaneta, which reached Acapulco in 1565. Shortly afterwards in 1571 Miguel López de Legazpi declared Manila a territory of New Spain and from

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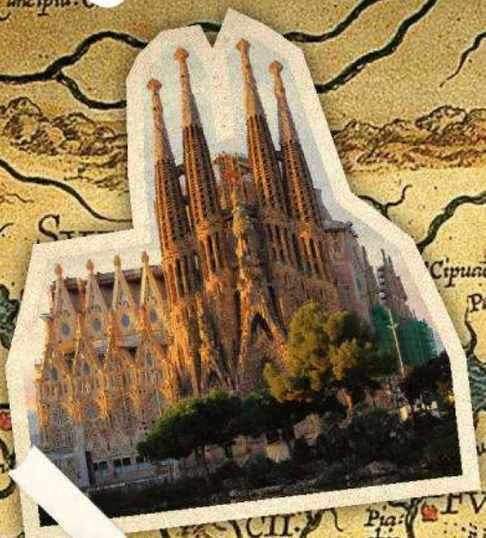
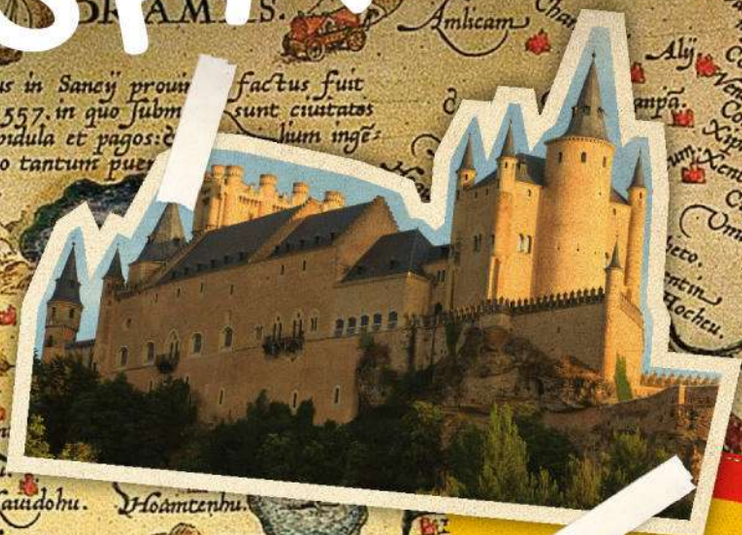
Main image source: © Alamy, © Getty Images

RIGHT
Wokou pirates raided China during the 13th to 15th centuries. Their presence has been described as war by another name by Alexander Samson

VIVA ESPAÑA!





NOSOTROS GANAMOS!

TÚ PIERDES!

THE PAST

1557

PORTUGUESE MACAU

Macau became a colony of Portugal in 1557, the first European colony in East Asia. The area quickly became a hub of international trade with China and Japan, despite the former refusing to recognise the sovereignty of the Portuguese. Nonetheless it remained an important hub of international trade until the 18th century when the British port of Hong Kong overtook it in importance. The introduction of legalised gambling in the 1960s reportedly saw Macau become a place where crime was rife.

1556-98

PHILIP II

The man who ultimately made the decision not to invade China was Philip II of Spain. It is considered to have been under his rule that the Spanish Empire reached the peak of its power and influence. He ruled from 1556 to 1598, when he died at the age of 71. From 1580 to 1598, he also served as the king of Portugal, spreading concern throughout Europe at this sudden expansion of the Spanish Empire.

1588

ENGLAND INVADED?

One of the key reasons Philip II was reluctant to invade China was that he was already occupied with plans for the invasion of another country – Britain. Comprising 150 ships and 18,000 men, the Spanish Armada was at the time the greatest fleet ever seen. However, the Spanish fleet lacked the firepower of their British enemies. After first being bombarded from a distance they were then sent into a panic after the British sent eight burning ships into the crowded Calais harbour where they were mooring.

then until the 19th century the Manila galleon was the most significant global trading link. Taking advantage of the fact that the money supply for a quarter of the world's population was silver, Castile had discovered vast reserves of it at Potosí [in modern-day Bolivia] and developed innovative silver amalgamation techniques on top of a difference in the relative value of silver and gold in the Americas and Asia. A Spanish merchant writing in the early 17th century asserted that a given quantity of gold was worth double the amount of silver in China. One of the early evangelists, Martín de Rada, called for an invasion but it was the [Philippines] governor Francisco de Sande who advocated for it most strongly, envisaging the conquest of the kingdom of Taiping with 4,000 men and six galleys. Philip II categorically rejected the idea in 1577, wishing to cultivate friendly relations with the Chinese and considering the sending of an embassy to the Emperor Wanli in 1580. The union of the Iberian crowns between 1580 and 1640 provided a fresh opportunity for the hawks, though, and soon the Jesuit Alonso Sánchez travelled to Madrid to lobby for an invasion. His efforts were thwarted, firstly by news that Matteo Ricci and Michele Ruggieri had won permission in 1585 to settle in Zhaoqing, undermining the argument that the Chinese were preventing evangelisation, and finally with the news of the defeat of the Grand Armada in 1588.

Could it have feasibly worked?

In a word, no. The Spanish were fully aware that, as one commentator put it, China was the greatest kingdom in the world. Its cities were five-times the size of European metropolises and in 1600 its population of around 150 million dwarfed Spain's 8.5 million. The notion that the people were effeminate and corrupt, with a weak military, was largely a comforting fantasy to promote an aggressive stance, but even at their most fully worked out, Spanish plans only ever envisaged the taking of a province. The advanced administrative machinery of the Chinese state may have been bureaucratic but it was also formidable and produced a homogeneity that was not found in Mesoamerica. Similarly the Ming military, even though it was much eroded by the 16th century with its theoretical strength of 3 million soldiers in fact only around 850,000, was still many times larger than any European army in the 16th century. In the wars that saw the change of dynasty in the mid-17th century, the rebel Li Zicheng alone commanded an army of 350,000.

Why did Spain choose not to invade?

Philip II was ultimately preoccupied with problems closer to home, not least Elizabethan England and the revolt of the Dutch Republic from 1565. In terms of logistics, the supply of troops and ships would have taken months to arrive. Most importantly perhaps was the impossibility of command and control, with missives having to make a round trip of at least six months. Information and knowledge of China was sufficiently vague and contradictory to make any prediction of victory highly uncertain. The East Indies was a very different world from Mesoamerica, with a multiplicity of seafaring and trading nations, including Japan, whose merchants got around the ban on direct trade with China by using Manila as a neutral meeting place. Finally, the Habsburg finances would not permit another military commitment, with numerous bankruptcies across his reign.

If the Spanish had invaded China, what would have been some of the immediate effects?

The logistical sophistication of the Chinese administration would have meant that knowledge of these invaders would have travelled very quickly to the emperor in Beijing. He would have

BELOW
Macau was a colony of Portugal until 1999. The Spanish wanted a similar piece of territory

ABOVE
Philip II decided against invading China partly because he was preparing for an invasion of England using the Spanish Armada

mustered the forces that he was able to, and would have most likely crushed the insurgents in his territory. But assuming they had established a bridgehead on the Chinese mainland, it seems likely that the various regions, provinces and kingdoms of the empire would have vied to ally themselves with the interlopers in order to dominate other groups. But it is unlikely the country that produced Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* would have been naïve enough to allow themselves to be divided and conquered. The Spanish presence may have precipitated the disintegration of Ming China and brought forward Mongol and Manchurian invasions. Along with banditry and piracy, the Europeans best chance of surviving would have been a long and protracted civil war such as the one that was experienced in the middle of the 17th century. But I suspect they would have been kicked out by a provincial governor before news even arrived at the emperor's court.

Would it have led to retaliation from China or even a possible Chinese invasion of Spain?
No. I think one of the features of life in Southeast Asia during this period was piracy. Piracy was a kind of an endemic problem for the Chinese throughout this period and was essentially a war fought by other means. The Chinese state itself would simply have been too occupied with its own problems, its own economic and social and cultural problems, to focus on any kind of an expansionist agenda.

What would've been the global effects?
This is an interesting counterfactual. There are perhaps two lines one could pursue here. If the Spanish had established themselves, it might have forced disparate forces to ally themselves with each other, unifying the empire in a way that might have prevented its collapse half-a-century later. This might have precipitated a more aggressive and militarised expansionist Chinese state that would have tried harder to dominate the world of the South China Sea, beginning with the expulsion of Spain from the Philippines. This would have disrupted the artery connecting China and Latin America, a flow of silver that precipitated the first age of globalisation. On the other hand, it might have brought forward the war that would see the end of three centuries of the Ming Dynasty, allowing Europeans to integrate themselves into a complex and shifting trading world.

THE POSSIBILITY

16TH CENTURY

THE END OF THE SPANISH COLONIES IN THE PHILIPPINES?

The Philippines were a Spanish colony from 1521, when Ferdinand Magellan first made landfall, until the revolution of 1898. The islands even take their name from Philip II. Had the Spanish chosen to invade China, it is likely that they would have used the Philippines as a possible base from which to stage the attack. Had China retaliated, or some form of war had broken out, would the Philippines have remained under Spanish control for much longer?

1572 – 1620

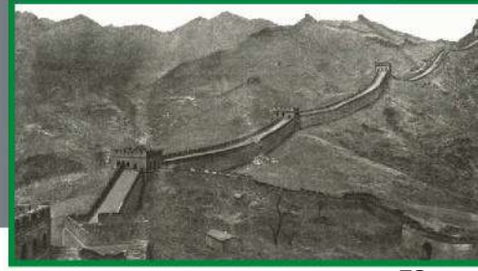
CHINA AS A MILITARY FORCE

During the period the Spanish were thinking of invading, Emperor Ming Shenzong (or the Wanli Emperor as he was known) ruled over China. Reported to be something of a recluse he appeared to leave the running of government to others, which resulted in rising corruption. However, despite this it has been argued that he was an effective military leader and the number of available troops was vast compared to those the Spanish could have commanded. It's likely the emperor's forces would have successfully seen off the Spanish.

1368 – 1644

BREACHING THE GREAT WALL

During the Ming Dynasty, the Great Wall of China was constantly strengthened and repaired in order to prevent invasions by the Mongolians. If the Spanish Empire had aligned themselves with such forces, such an alliance may well have increased their chances of mounting a successful invasion of China.



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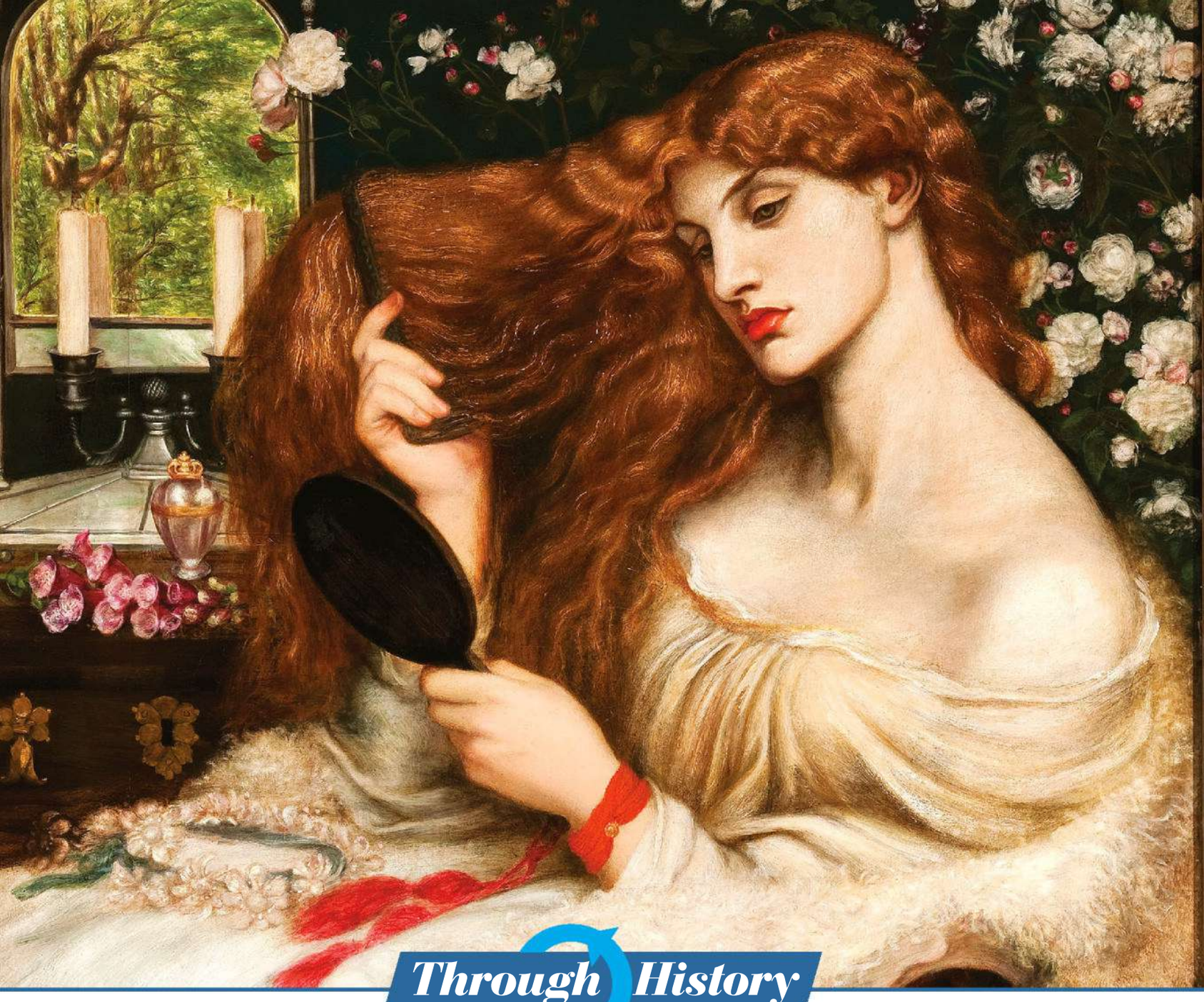


Main image: © Delaware Art Museum, Samuel and Mary R. Bancroft Memorial, 1935

Through History

THE ROSSETTI GENERATION

A new exhibition at Tate Britain explores the work of the Rossetti family

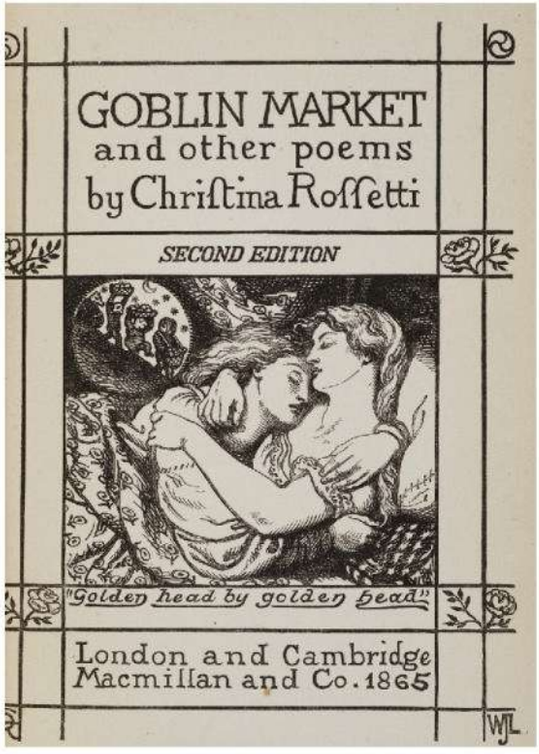
As a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848, Dante Gabriel Rossetti has been a figure of fascination for his medieval revivalist style of painting and poetry. His sister, Christina Rossetti, was a writer in her own right whose work saw her become one of the most revered Victorian poets. His wife, Elizabeth Siddal, acted as a muse in her earlier life for several eminent Pre-Raphaelite artists and is the subject of some of the most famous paintings in the world, most notably in John Everett Millais' *Ophelia*. After she met Dante Gabriel Rossetti, her own career as an artist began to take off and she made a name for herself as more than just a muse.

Now, Tate Britain is bringing together work from this distinguished family in a new exhibition that will be the largest display of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's work in 20 years and the first retrospective of Elizabeth Siddal in 30 years. Featuring over 150 works of painting, poetry, photography and design, The Rossettis will explore the counterculture movement, of which the Rossetti artists were at the forefront, that rebelled against Victorian societal standards and the Royal Academy's authority over artistic style.

ROSSETTI SITTING TO ELIZABETH SIDDAL

This piece by Rossetti shows him sitting for his wife, Elizabeth, as she paints him. The pair sometimes collaborated on their work, and often acted as each other's muses. It was after meeting Rossetti that Elizabeth began to study with him.

© Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery



GOBLIN MARKET

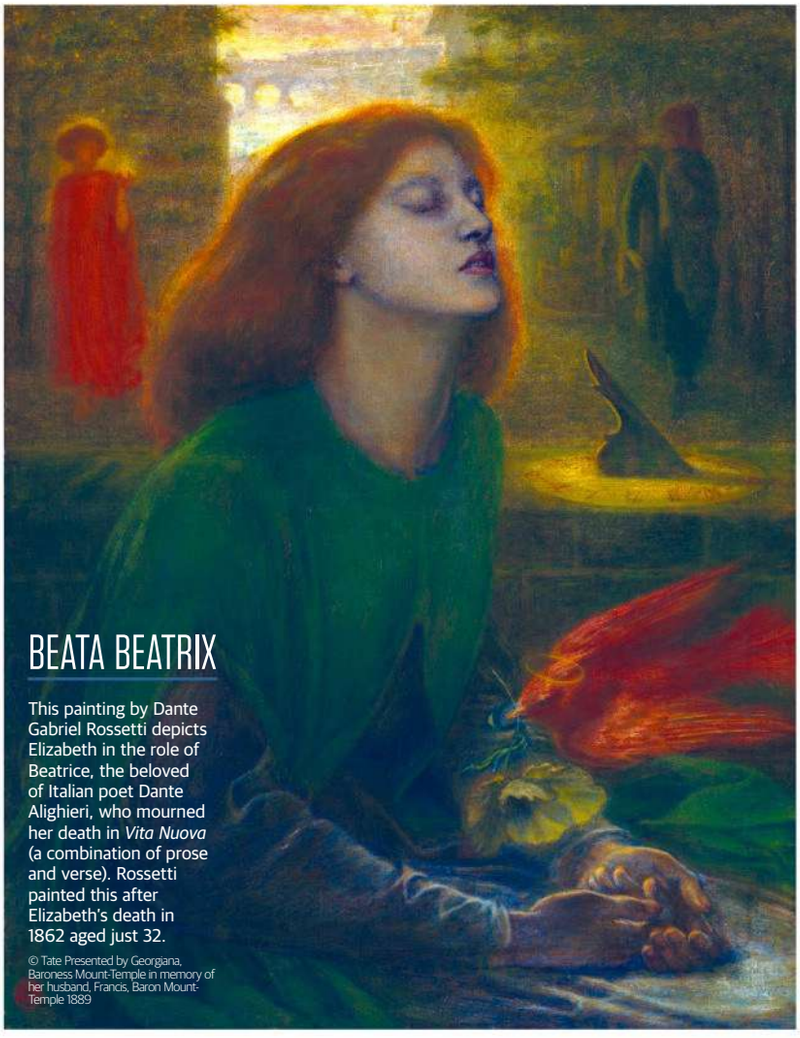
Arguably Christina Rossetti's most famous work, *Goblin Market* was first published in 1862. The poem is a fantasy that follows two sisters as they are tempted by "goblin fruit", with some critics identifying a moral allegory about temptation and indulgence.

© Tate

LADY AFFIXING PENNANT

Lady Affixing Pennant to a Knight's Spear is one of the surviving paintings among over 100 artworks by Elizabeth. Her style was close to that of her husband's, and often depicted medieval themes. This painting has a chivalric theme.

© Tate



BEATA BEATRIX

This painting by Dante Gabriel Rossetti depicts Elizabeth in the role of Beatrice, the beloved of Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who mourned her death in *Vita Nuova* (a combination of prose and verse). Rossetti painted this after Elizabeth's death in 1862 aged just 32.

© Tate Presented by Georgiana, Baroness Mount-Temple in memory of her husband, Francis, Baron Mount-Temple 1889

BOCCA BACIATA

Modelled on one of Rossetti's muses (and lovers), Bocca Baciata marked his move from watercolour painting back to using oil paints. The white rose in the model's hair symbolises innocence, while the apple alludes to the story of Adam and Eve.

© Museum of Fine Arts Boston

PAOLO AND FRANCESCA DA RIMINI

Showing the story of the adulterous relationship of Paolo and Francesca from Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*, this watercolour highlights Dante Gabriel Rossetti's fascination with tragic love stories. In Dante's tale, which is depicted in three sections here, the couple are condemned to Hell.

© Tate Purchased with assistance from Sir Arthur Du Cros Bt and Sir Otto Beit KCMG through the Art Fund 1916

JOAN OF ARC

This painting of the French patron saint Joan of Arc was the last work completed by Rossetti. He finished it just a few days before his death on 9 April 1882. It was found sitting on his easel.

© Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge

PROSERPINE

Depicting the goddess Proserpine, the wife of Pluto, Rossetti used the wife of William Morris as his model for this painting. Jane Morris acted as Rossetti's muse for many works and the pair had an intimate relationship for several decades.

© Tate

© Delaware Art Museum

The Rossettis exhibition
is at Tate Britain from 6 April 2023 until 24 September 2023

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

© Joe Alblas/Netflix

AFRICAN QUEENS: NJINGA

Netflix puts a girlboss spin on the 17th century monarch

Certificate: 15 **Director:** Various **Cast:** Jada Pinkett Smith, Adesuwa Oni, Chipo Kureya **Released:** Out now

Njinga Mbande (c.1583 – 1663) ruled the kingdom of Ndongo and Matamba during the 17th century. Today, in the country now known as Angola, she is celebrated as an anti-colonialist icon, her achievements fighting wars against Portugal gaining wider interest and acknowledgement outside her homeland.

This Netflix-backed production, however, executively produced by Hollywood star Jada Pinkett Smith, who serves as a type of offscreen scene-setter at the start of each episode, disappointingly fumbles Njinga's epic life story.

No-one can rightly expect the depth and nuance of a history book from a four-part television documentary-drama, but the series might have worked far better in standard documentary format, giving exclusive airtime to its impressive roster of global academics. Njinga (Adesuwa Oni) was a complex woman living in a complex time, we are constantly told, but rarely do the dramatic scenes examine this theme or particularly show us how and why.

The historical re-enactment sequences, intercut with the experts explaining Njinga's biography, are perfunctory, and the acting too often is let down by bad dialogue, the directors following plainly bad scripts. Only those talking-head style contributions from leading African history and anthropology authorities, as well as beautiful period costume design and vivid location work, save it from the outright abject.

Njinga as a comforting proto-feminist figure is also an obvious move to make in our era. But in not allowing her the full spectrum of historical contextualisation it comes off as conceptually unsatisfying as well as heavily censored. Of course, it wouldn't be the first history-based TV show or film to set up its pitch first and foremost as one-dimensional populist storytelling, but if you're going to 'print the legend' you've got to deliver it with so much entertaining gusto that we don't question too closely its superficial scope or that it's trying to latch onto contemporary relevance by giving Njinga a modern makeover.

For example, while Njinga hated the Portuguese, she took a willing part in the slave trade, making slaving pacts with the Portuguese and, later, the Dutch. Some of her people – and her captured enemies – were deemed expendable for what she saw as the greater good. The show tends to gloss over this so as not to disrupt its unconvincing and – sometimes cheesy – empowerment narrative.

It's a shame because Njinga's story is fascinating and worth telling. Intelligent, diplomatic, unafraid to stand up for herself and her kingdom, she commanded the respect of her number-one enemy: Portuguese bureaucrats. She also intuitively favoured multiculturalism in order to further her long-term aims and alliances (she readily converted to Christianity). Most vitally, she attained peace and eventual recognition as a female ruler. But as a study in power and ambition, and as a portrait of a woman of and in her time, it is a let-down. ***MC***

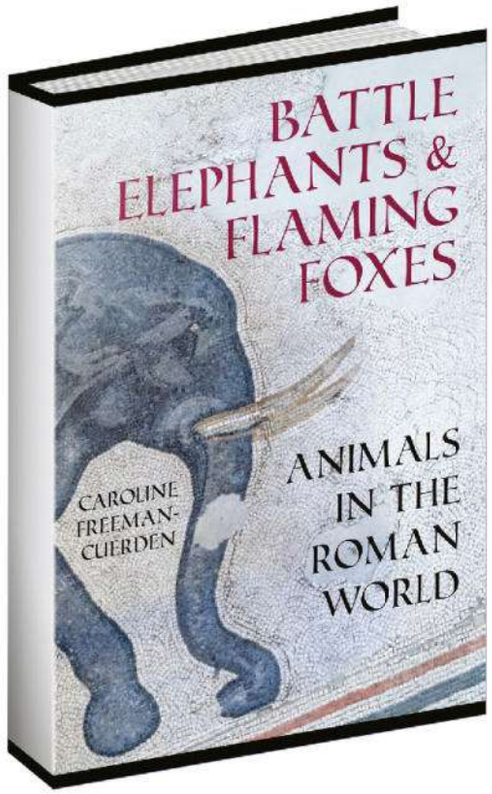
★★☆☆☆

Reviews by
Martyn Conterio, Catherine Curzon, Jackson van Uden

BATTLE ELEPHANTS & FLAMING FOXES

A gallop through the lives of animals in ancient Rome

Author: Caroline Freeman-Cuerden **Publisher:** The History Press **Price:** £20
Released: Out now

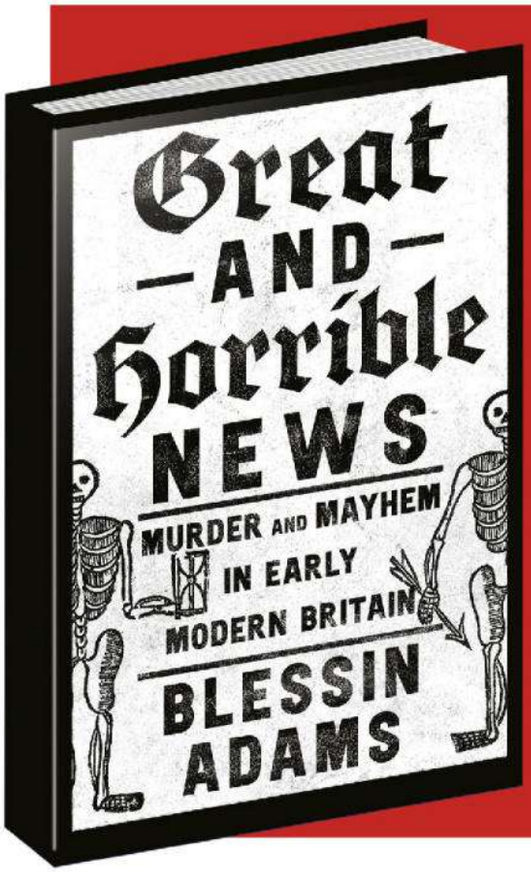


In *Battle Elephants & Flaming Foxes*, Caroline Freeman-Cuerden takes us on a trot through the stories about animals in Roman history. From wine-loving parrots to eels as murder weapons, and battlefields to domestic bonding, it offers a fascinating take on the human-animal relationship that is by turns deeply moving, witty and very surprising indeed.

The amount of research that has gone into the book is evident on every single page, but it is never dry. Freeman-Cuerden employs a wry humour here and there but never to the detriment of the stories she is telling. Of course, by the very nature of the book there are aspects that some animal-lovers may find difficult to stomach and perhaps even distressing, but nothing here is gratuitous and Freeman-Cuerden always writes with sensitivity and understanding. Put simply, it would be impossible to write this comprehensive history of animals in the Roman Empire without including stories that tell some unflinching truths. It is an appropriate and touching salute to the importance of animals to the Romans and their place in history as a whole.

Battle Elephants & Flaming Foxes is a highly enjoyable book that should find a wide readership. It is enormously accessible and will certainly appeal to readers who have no specific interest in Rome – or even history. Instead, it is a collection of very well-told stories that are backed up by an engaging writing style and impeccable, perceptive research. ***CC***

★★★★★



GREAT AND HORRIBLE NEWS

An accessible book of historic true crime case studies

Author: Blessin Adams **Publisher:** William Collins
Price: £18.99 **Released:** 30 March 2023

Blessin Adams' new book, *Great And Horrible News: Murder and Mayhem in Early Modern Britain*, gives true crime lovers an insight into some of the most fascinating true crime stories of early modern Britain, shedding light on the peculiarities of British laws in that era that made victims of assault and mother nature wrongdoers in the eyes of the law and the public.

Adams reveals tragic stories of families, friends and lovers who were victims and criminals. Some of these tales, such as those of mothers who were accused of murdering their stillborn or new-born illegitimate children, tug on our heartstrings and highlight the terrible plight of unmarried pregnant women during the early modern period. Our favourite is one of the book's first, in which we hear about the bloody and violent murder of John Knight at the hands of his friend Nathaniel Butler, and the profound impact that this had upon Butler's life.

Adams' writing style makes *Great And Horrible News* an accessible page-turner. Not only does it delve into historic true crime in fascinating and thought-provoking detail, it also provides a fantastic introduction to the social history of early modern Britain as it explains aspects of the period that readers today might find surprising and strange. As well as teaching us about this time in British history, these stories can serve as a springboard for readers to explore other aspects of early modern Britain. ***JvU***

★★★★½

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HISTORY WAR RECOMMENDS...

Out now!

Dazzle, Disruption & Concealment

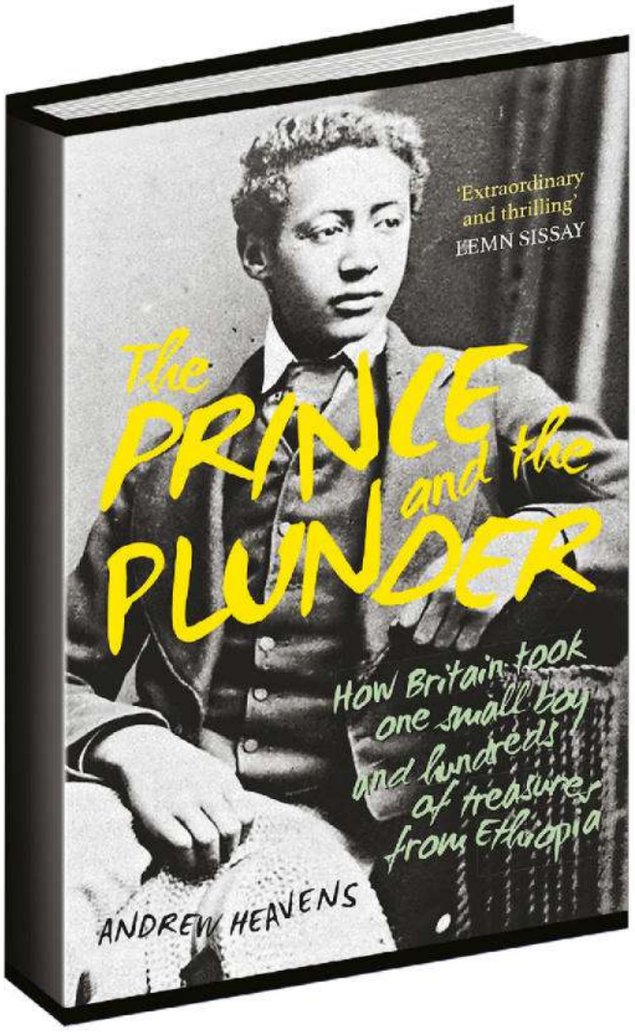
Author David L Williams **Price** £30 **Publisher** The History Press

Dazzle, Disruption & Concealment focuses on painted ship camouflage as it emerged and evolved from the final years of the 19th century. Light, colour and vision comprise the three core physical processes of camouflage practices, and Williams delves into the role of each in disguising a ship from the enemy. The book benefits from a lavish and extensive selection of photos and drawings that illustrate the different types of camouflage used to deceive the enemy.

THE PRINCE AND THE PLUNDER

The extraordinary story of an unforgettable life

Author: Andrew Heavens **Publisher:** The History Press **Price:** £22.99 **Released:** Out now


'Extraordinary and thrilling'
LEMN SISSAY
The PRINCE and the PLUNDER
How Britain took one small boy and hundreds of treasures from Ethiopia
ANDREW HEAVENS

"A deeply moving account of a life cut short and the fate of a kingdom's treasures"

In *The Prince and the Plunder*, Andrew Heavens tells the incredible story of Prince Alamayu, the orphaned son of Tewodros II, Emperor of Ethiopia. In 1868, when the prince was just six years old, Alamayu took his own life after his forces were defeated by the British at the Battle of Maqdala. When the British left, they took not only the treasures and manuscripts they had found in Tewodros' kingdom, but his wife and son too. Alamayu's mother died on the journey down from the citadel and the care of her son was entrusted to Captain Tristram Speedy, who was the boy's champion for the rest of his short life.

The bewildered, frightened prince was brought back to England, where he was introduced to a host of admiring people, including Queen Victoria. He was welcomed and celebrated on British shores, but tragically he never saw his homeland again. Instead, he was pushed into the life of a young English gentleman, to both Speedy and Alamayu's great dismay.

The prince's life was painfully short and, taken from his homeland and refused permission to return, he struggled to find his place in the world. Alamayu longed to go home until the day of his death at just 18 years old and, just like the prince, the treasures taken by the British have never been returned to Ethiopia. In this new book, Heavens sets out to tell the story not only of Alamayu, but of the loot too.

The Prince and the Plunder is a book of many parts, from tragedy to adventure and even mystery as Heavens tracks down the missing treasures taken after the battle, treasures known as 'Ethiopia's Elgin Marbles'. It is a story that crisscrosses the world, taking the reader from Africa to Scotland, Malta to Leeds, and even into a boarded-up hole in the wall of Westminster Abbey.

Heavens' book tells this remarkable and unhappy story with authority and skill, ably marshalling a broad cast of characters and a journey through continents. He mines the story without sentimentality but instead confronts it head-on, looking for answers that go deep into the heart of Victorian Britain. Heavens also refutes claims that the remains of Alamayu were found and disinterred from St George's Chapel in Windsor to allow their repatriation, and attempts to catalogue and trace much of the missing loot from Maqdala. As well as a comprehensive list of items and their location, he includes a list of those that have been returned and those that remain unaccounted for.

The Prince and the Plunder tells a remarkable story and is surely the most definitive study of Alamayu and Maqdala to date. It deserves to be read not only by those with a specific interest in the players or era, but by a far wider audience. By turns tragic, authoritative and deeply moving, Heavens ably juggles the narrative of a looted kingdom and the fate of its artefacts alongside the story of a life cut short. ***CC***

★★★★★

HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

HOUSE OF GUCCI

Director: Ridley Scott **Starring:** Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Al Pacino **Country:** USA **Year:** 2021

Is this shocking tale of Patrizia Reggiani and her marriage to Maurizio Gucci as factual as it is fashion-conscious?

VERDICT: While not wholly inaccurate, the film's exaggerated approach to many facts leads to a hollow result.

01 *House of Gucci* is the story of Patrizia Reggiani's marriage to Maurizio Gucci, the battle for control of the Gucci brand and Reggiani's hiring of an assassin to kill Maurizio. Her mistaking him for a bartender is fictional, but he did compare her to Elizabeth Taylor.

02 Jeremy Irons portrays the actor Rodolfo Gucci, Maurizio's father. In the film Rodolfo takes a dislike to Patrizia and disapproves of his son's romance with her. He really did mistrust Patrizia and considered her to be a social climber.

03 Jared Leto's portrayal of Paulo Gucci treats him mostly as a comedic figure. In particular, his designs are shown as tacky. In reality, his sportswear collection was designed to be cheaper, for the youth market, and was somewhat successful.

04 Maurizio's betrayal is revealed when an investor is shown to be wearing a rare Gucci shoe with gold leaf, originally designed for Clark Gable. While such a shoe did exist and was made for Gable, it did not have gold leaf and was not given away by Maurizio.

05 At the film's climax Patrizia, with the assistance of the psychic Pina, hires men to kill Maurizio. She was convicted and sentenced to 29 years, eventually serving 18. After her release her lawyer arranged a part-time job for her at jewellery store Bozart.

All images: © Alamy

Did you know?

The aristocrats of the British Raj added more expensive ingredients, like salmon and veal, to their versions of kedgeree

Main image: © Shutterstock
Inset image: © Getty Images

KEDGEREE

A BRITISH BREAKFAST DISH OF INDIAN ORIGIN, BRITAIN, 19TH CENTURY

Ingredients

- 50g ghee (or butter)
- 1 medium onion
- 3 cardamom pods, bruised
- 1 tsp of ground turmeric
- 1 tsp of curry powder
- 1 small cinnamon stick
- 1 dried bay leaf (or two fresh)
- 450g basmati rice
- 1 litre of chicken or fish stock (fresh if possible)
- 750g smoked haddock fillet
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

Kedgeree is a fascinating example of how Indian cuisine was adopted and adapted by British people living and working in India and then exported back home. Indian spices began appearing in Britain from the 18th century, becoming more widely available through the next century. A hugely popular dish, the first kedgeree recipe has been traced to 1790.

It appears to be an interpretation of a classic South Asian dish, khichri or khichdi. The Sanskrit name for the dish, khiccā, can be traced back to the 4th century BCE. It would typically be made with rice and pulses (often lentils), but would vary greatly based on region and season due to availability of ingredients. This anglicised version adds smoked fish and eggs, common elements on a British breakfast table.

METHOD

01 Melt the ghee in a large saucepan that has a lid and then add the chopped onion, cooking over a medium heat for about five minutes. You want the onion to soften but not brown.

02 Stir in the cardamom pods, turmeric, curry powder, cinnamon stick and bay leaves. Allow these to warm up for about a minute until they become aromatic.

03 Add the rice and stir well until it is coated in butter and spices.

04 Pour in the chicken or fish stock and add a little salt. Stir once to release the rice from the bottom of the pan, reduce heat to low and cover the pan. Cook for 12 minutes.

05 In a second, shallow pan, bring some water to the boil and add the smoked haddock. Simmer for four minutes or until the fish is just cooked. Remove from pan to allow to cool.

06 Hard boil the eggs for 8 minutes. Once the fish is cool enough to handle, break it into flakes, discarding any skin and bone. Drain the eggs and cool slightly before peeling and slicing.

07 Back to the rice, remove the bay leaves, cinnamon stick and cardamom pods. Add the fish and eggs, stirring them in gently. Cover again and allow to heat through for two to three minutes.

08 Stir in the chopped parsley, season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with lemon wedges – lime pickle is also a nice accompaniment.

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